

### **Civil defense must be speeded**

The President took a long but far from final step toward ending the fantastic confusion over civil defense when on December 1 he established the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and named as Administrator Millard F. Caldwell Jr., ex-Governor of Florida. An indication of the President's increasing concern about civil defense is found in the fact that he made the agency a branch of his own executive office. Then, while speakers at the Washington conference of the American Municipal Association were denouncing the Federal Government for failing to provide leadership, he sent to Congress on December 4 a civil-defense plan that would cost Federal, State and local governments an estimated \$3.1 billion over the next three years. It remains now for Congress to enact legislation to place the new agency on a statutory basis without delay, and to speed the hearings on the proposed plan. The Senate and the House referred the bills embodying the plan to their respective Armed Services Committees, who may be tempted to conduct lengthy hearings, since this is the first time the question has come before them. The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy has heretofore exercised informal jurisdiction, and held prolonged hearings during March and April. We recommend that the members of the Armed Services Committees read the report of those hearings so they will not have to go over the same ground again, and report the bills out pronto. When Senator Harry P. Cain (R., Wash.) told the municipal officials on December 4 that Congress would begin hearings when it returned on January 3, Mayor William Devin of Seattle replied that the issue was so important that it should be taken up at once. We agree. Many municipalities are marking time because they do not know what the Federal Government will do. The President has done his part. The Congress will be answerable for any further delay.

### **Defense bill goes up**

In his message to Congress on December 1, asking for an additional \$17.8 billion for arms, President Truman warned that the United States might soon be engaged in World War III. The warning was unnecessary. As if by magic, the terrible news from Korea had changed overnight the business-as-usual atmosphere on Capitol Hill. Gone was the petty bickering, gone the maneuvering for political advantage. This was one of those decisive moments in history when men peered into the future, as through a fog, and suddenly saw looming directly ahead the most deadly peril. A Congress which only a few months ago had cut appropriations for foreign aid was now ready to give the President anything he wanted. There was no doubt whatsoever that it would approve the latest arms request in full. There was no doubt either that the next Congress would vote still bigger appropriations. The security of the country hung in the balance. If money could save it, the country would be saved. Prior to the President's new request for funds, the

## **CURRENT COMMENT**

81st Congress had voted \$24 billion for defense. It had approved another \$7 billion for military and economic aid to our allies. All told, after the Congress has voted the additional \$17.8 billion, the nation will be committed to spend about \$49 billion on defense by the end of the fiscal year next June 30. Except for World War II, such spending is unprecedented in this country. Nor is the end in sight.

### **... and so must revenues**

At the beginning of hostilities in Korea, there was a widespread demand that the defense program be put on a pay-as-you-go basis. Nobody likes higher taxes, but after our experience with rising prices these past few years, most people like the alternative to higher taxes—which is inflation—even less. A responsive Congress voted to increase income taxes on corporations and individuals before adjourning for the elections. It promised at the same time to ready an excess-profits tax before the end of the session. That promise seems about to be redeemed. Whatever hesitations existed, especially among Republicans, have been largely swept away by the news from Korea. On December 5, by a big margin of 378-20, the House approved a bill that would net about \$3.2 billion from U. S. corporations. As it stands, the bill is less severe than the World War II measure. It sets the excess-profits tax at 75 per cent, and makes a more generous provision for hardship cases. The base for computing the tax will be either capital investment, or 85 per cent of earnings during the best three years between 1946 and 1949. The Administration had asked for a profit base of 75 per cent, which would have brought in another \$800 million. Though the new Congress which meets in January will raise taxes all along the line, there is no longer much hope of keeping the defense program on a pay-as-you-go basis. One can plausibly argue that there is a point beyond which taxes disrupt an economy, and beyond which, even during war, taxpayers will not go. In view of the postwar increase in the national income, that point is higher than it was during World War II, when we paid about forty per cent of the bill through taxes. Nevertheless, some Government borrowing will be necessary this time. It must, however, be kept to an irreducible minimum. Barring all-out war, we ought to pay ninety or ninety-five per cent of the defense bill as we go.

### Prices rise steadily

The Administration's plan for countering inflation during the semi-peace-semi-war economy that started with the North Korean aggression was soundly conceived. Leaving business relatively free to expand production, it aimed to keep supply and demand in balance by hamstringing the buying power of both individuals and corporations. The means used were all orthodox—restrictions on bank credit, curbs on installment buying and mortgages, stiffer taxes. For several reasons, which need not be enumerated here, the program fell short of expectations. It slowed down price increases without stopping them. By mid-October the Consumer Price Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics stood at 174.8, the highest point it has ever reached, higher even than the lofty August-September 1948 level. The wholesale price index also exceeded its previous peak, and the volatile spot-commodity index was madly spiraling toward its previous postwar high. It will be no news to housewives, but here is what has happened to the prices of eleven key products:

Commodity	Price June 24	Price Now
Butter, lb., grade A.....	\$ .66	\$ .70
Eggs, doz., grade A.....	.519	.692
Ground choice rd. steak, lb...	.77	.822
Bacon, lb., grade A.....	.587	.596
T-bone steak, lb.....	1.03	1.04
Coffee, lb., popular brand....	.75	.82
Milk, qt., grade A.....	.185	.196
Bananas, lb. ....	.15	.16
Nylon hose, 51-gauge, pair...	1.45	1.53
White shirt, popular brand...	3.34	3.59
Refrigerator, 7 cu. ft., popular brand .....	219.34	220.36

Only pork was cheaper, by about eight cents a pound. And to reach a store to pay these higher prices, points out the United Press, which made this compilation, the citizen had to pay more for public transportation.

### How near the big freeze?

Last week observers were speculating not whether a wage-price freeze was necessary, but when it would come. W. Stuart Symington, chairman of the National Security Resources Board, told the Senate Banking Committee on November 29 that present controls ought to have more of a chance to work before the

nation was put in a "straitjacket." He conceded that world developments might change his ideas. By the time Alan Valentine, Economic Stabilization Administrator, got around to testifying before the Committee, plenty of world developments had taken place, none of them good. He announced on December 4 that we were near the "plateau" where prices must be held. Meanwhile the work of assembling the necessary machinery went steadily forward. The President named a Wage Stabilization Board, with Cyrus S. Ching, director of the U.S. Conciliation Service, as chairman. A few days later, on November 30, the President, who had announced previously that he would fill the job when he found a man who had the guts for it, named Toledo's likable, highly respected Mayor, Michael V. DiSalle, as Director of Price Stabilization. The selection completed the top personnel of the Economic Stabilization Agency. From the start of the mobilization effort, this Review has shied away from all-out controls. So long as the Korean War remained a police action and the military budget only slightly exceeded \$30 billion, there was reason to believe that the country could take the added burden in stride. Not much remains of that hope today. A good many people living on fixed incomes are going to be hurt, and the costs of war enormously increased, unless prices are checked, and checked forthwith. The President cannot, and should not, long postpone an admittedly hard and unwelcome decision.

### Comrades ready convention

The American Communist Party has been doing a bang-up job in spreading Soviet "peace" propaganda and in repelling unprecedented legal and legislative assaults, but it is now confronted with a serious internal problem. That is the gist of a typically wordy resolution which the CP's National Committee is currently circulating preparatory to the party's biennial convention in Manhattan, December 28-30. The CP intends to use all the resources of law to remain above-ground, hoping in this way to continue the fiction that it is a *bona fide* political party, like the Democrats or Republicans, and one wholly loyal to the country's institutions. The internal problem is something called "liquidationist" tendencies, which appears to be Marxist jargon for a pronounced trend to abandon the ship. There has been a drop in dues-paying membership. "Sectarian tendencies to retreat into our own shell and to do less mass work" have become manifest. The neighborhood clubs haven't been functioning as they should, and the low sale of literature is simply "impermissible." The basic difficulty seems to be an erroneous concept of party membership. Somebody set the standards too high, with the result that many have been dropped because they did not measure up to the ideal. In other words, the party must make it easier for the gullible to go along. What lies behind this biennial soul-searching is not yet clear. The party recently shifted its trade-union line. Instead of fighting their enemies, "progressive" labor leaders—for the

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welfare of the toiling masses, of course—are to cooperate with them, even with such company unionists and tools of Wall Street warmongers as James Carey and other officers of IUE-CIO. Perhaps the Korean War has dangerously isolated the comrades, thus reducing their usefulness to Moscow, and orders have gone out to bend a bit with the breeze. For a clue to the puzzle, watch the convention at the end of December.

### **The threat of Communist sabotage**

The New York *Herald Tribune*, which on November 29 began publishing a series of lengthy articles on "The Threat of Red Sabotage," has performed a timely public service. Considering how close we may be to war with Russia, little public attention seems to have been given to the danger of sabotage by Communist agents in this country. This danger is in some ways more imminent than that of heavy bombing of our big cities, since the potential saboteurs are already here. The authors of the *Herald Tribune* articles are Fendall Yerxa and Ogden R. Reid. Fendall Yerxa is not identified. The name may be the pseudonym of an ex-Communist, or possibly an ex-FBI agent. Much of the material purports to have come from Communist Party files and from "directives" of the CP's National Committee in this country. Much of it is not really new, except that the descriptions are very circumstantial and direct quotations are made from Communist Party booklets and even, in one case, from a report Gus Hall, national secretary and "a chief policy maker," made "to top leaders in secret session." How the authors gained possession of so inaccessible a document as a record of this report is not explained, yet the newspaper reproduces a photograph of part of a page from the report. The most sensational of the articles was the first. In it the authors described how tinned "food" aboard an American ship moored at a Philadelphia dock was found to contain Communist pamphlets on methods of sabotage, subversion and revolution, concealed in sardine cans. The instructions on sabotage are very explicit.

### **... and the "legality" of the CP**

Although the pamphlets date from 1946 and 1947 and were intended for use in Spain or Latin America, no one who has read the *Herald Tribune* articles will doubt that similar instructions are in the hands—or at least in the minds—of American Communists. We have not had much experience with sabotage in this country. But the sixth article, which appeared December 5, is anything but reassuring. Communist leadership in a CIO local tied up the Allis-Chalmers plant in Wisconsin for 76 days in early 1941, precisely to bottleneck our defense production. Enough Communist-dominated unions retain at least partial control of workers in some "sensitive" industries, such as West Coast longshoring, to make sabotage a real (though now greatly reduced) danger. The question whether

the Communist Party is a conspiracy to overthrow our government by force is certainly answered in the affirmative by the Yerxa-Reid articles.

### **Anti-Red law upheld**

In the third stage of its slow legal testing, New York State's Feinberg Act, barring members of subversive groups from public-school teaching posts, has been upheld. On November 30 the Court of Appeals in Albany—the State's highest tribunal—*unanimously* rejected the arguments of three groups of plaintiffs asking that the law be declared unconstitutional. The contested legislation was passed in the State Legislature, by overwhelming majorities, on March 30, 1949. It empowered the Board of Regents to take measures to rid the public-school system of Communists and fellow-travelers. Before the law could be applied, early last January, the Teachers Union, Local 555, CIO, in New York City, had enforcement blocked through litigation. In two cases Justices of the State Supreme Court sided with the plaintiffs by declaring the Act unconstitutional. On appeal, the Appellate Division in the Second and Third Departments unanimously reversed these rulings and upheld the law's constitutionality (Am. 3/25, p. 715). Plaintiffs then carried their case to the Court of Appeals, which has now, by its ruling, exhausted the avenues of appeal in the State courts. Meanwhile New York City's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William Jansen, took action against eight teachers, under authority granted him by Section 2523 of the State Education Law (Am. 7/22, p. 406; 10/21, p. 66). The verdict of the special trial examiner appointed to adjudicate their case should be handed down any day now.

### **... in a well-reasoned verdict**

Associate Judge Edmund H. Lewis, speaking for the Court of Appeals, had to dispose of three main arguments against the Feinberg Act. 1) It does not violate *due process* requirements because, under the law, the Board of Regents cannot label any organization "subversive" until "after inquiry and after such notices and hearings as may be appropriate." Evidence that a teacher or applicant "knowingly" holds membership in an organization so labeled provides, under the law, *prima facie* cause for disqualifying him. Nevertheless, the Judge pointed out, "substantial evidence" to the contrary will cancel out the presumption that a person is actively pursuing the purpose of overthrowing the American system of government by force. In the face of such "contrary evidence" the burden of proof falls upon the public official. The aggrieved party always has recourse to the remedies provided under the State Civil Service Law. 2) The Feinberg Act does not violate constitutional guarantees of *freedom of speech* and *freedom of assembly* because these are not absolute, and the State Legislature found, as a matter of fact, that "the infiltration of members of subversive groups into employment in



the public schools" actually presented "a clear and present danger" to American institutions. 3) The law is not "unconstitutionally vague"; indeed, it merely strengthens legislation adopted in 1917 and 1939. Whether the State Legislature went beyond its powers will finally be decided, it seems, by the U.S. Supreme Court. That Court has recently heard arguments on the appeal of the eleven Communist leaders convicted under the Smith Act. The decision, not due for some months, will no doubt clarify the whole issue of anti-subversive legislation.

#### **German "doctrine" on rearming**

One thing you have to say for Walter Lippmann, feature writer for the New York *Herald Tribune*: every once in a while he turns to a complicated issue and does a studied analysis which makes the conventional treatment it has received seem rather less than profound. In his column for December 4, after traveling for nearly two months in Northern Europe, he came up with what looks like a pinch-hit home-run on the problem of German rearmament. Everyone has been appraising the opinions of Western Germans in terms of their insistence on defending the Elbe rather than the Rhine and their insistence on regaining sovereignty before consenting to rearm at all. Mr. Lippmann believes that the problem revolves around a more fundamental situation—the fact that Germany is today partitioned and dismembered. Under these circumstances, asking Western Germany to participate in the defense plans of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is really asking them to confront Eastern Germany as part of the enemy's military system—in a word, it is asking them to prepare to make war on Eastern Germany as an enemy. Mr. Lippmann believes that Western Germans will never warm up to that idea. What they want and are willing to fight for is a military plan so strong that it looks to the liberation of Eastern Germany from Soviet control and its unification with the West as part of a restored national German unity. He thinks the French are afraid that an autonomous German army would march East, not West. This appraisal may be subject to modifications, but it seems entirely reasonable. What the Germans want is a U. S. military commitment on the Elbe so strong as to prove that we will not stop until we have won back Eastern Germany so that the German nation can again be united.

#### **... and revised French proposals**

Since Mr. Lippmann's column appeared, the march of events has prompted the French Government to revise its rigid stand on German rearming. For three months the French have been holding out for the creation of a European army and the implementation of the Schuman plan as prerequisites of their approval of limited German recruiting. On December 6 the French Cabinet decided that such recruiting need not await the implementation of the Schuman plan. They modified, but did not relinquish, their refusal to let the Germans build up a national army under

its own general staff. The new proposals call for German combat units up to one-third of a division to serve in mixed divisions in a European army. The French still want a guarantee that the Germans will not constitute a national army under a general staff of their own, and that their forces will not amount to more than one-fifth of the total allied armed forces of Europe. The real problem is to build up enough ground troops to defend Western Europe against a possible Russian attack, and to do this the allies need all the manpower available. For this reason, the new French proposals cannot be considered as anything more than one more stage towards a really workable solution of a vexing but extremely urgent problem. If President Truman appoints General Eisenhower to head the Atlantic pact forces, a step which seems imminent, the solution may soon be found. On December 4 West Berlin voters showed a notable shift away from the Social Democrats. The shift may have reassured the French who considered the socialists too nationalistic on rearmament.

#### **Prague "trials"**

It is only those who "confess" who are brought to court in Soviet-staged spectacle trials. On December 2 the Soviet stooges in Prague completed their week's exhibition of nine ecclesiastics. All of them were thoroughly "processed" by long months in the dread hands of manipulators of minds, all of them reduced to jargon-spouting of Communist slogans. The sentences ranged from life for Benedictine Abbot Anastasius Opasek to ten years for seventy-year-old Msgr. Joseph Cihak, personal friend of Archbishop Beran. The confessions were calculated to destroy the continued existence of the Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia. They included admissions of violations by the hierarchy of the monstrous legislation giving the regime complete control over pastoral appointments, ecclesiastical administration and pulpit preaching. In addition to the "confessions" of the defendants, young priests, secretaries of Archbishop Matocha and of Bishops Skoupy and Hlouch, were brought from their prison cells to tell the People's Tribunal in dread Pankrac prison that a bishop had been consecrated secretly in defiance of church-control law, that pastoral letters had been illegally distributed, that the hierarchy maintained contact with the Holy See. A new item was "confessed"—"economic sabotage"—which involves the refusal to preach the identification of Catholicism and socialism as the Government demands. Though Bishops Michael Buzalka, Stephan Barnas, Johann Vojtassak and Peter Paul Gojdic are in jail (all the other bishops are under house arrest), it was Auxiliary Bishop Stanislav Zela, Vicar General of Olomouc, who was brought into the courtroom. Really on trial was the Church in Bohemia and Moravia, in the persons of Archbishops Matocha and Beran. The final speeches of the defendants were not broadcast. The defense attorneys protested that their "guilt was fully proved" and blamed the hierarchy as the inspiration of "their crimes."



## WASHINGTON FRONT

Only those whose memories of 1914 and 1939 are vivid can understand the grim darkness of the foreboding that hung over Washington as Prime Minister Attlee conferred with the President. The same symptoms are here now that were present in those two fateful years, even to the marked increase of military uniforms on the streets and in the railroad stations. Every sign again points to war. But where? When?

The very asking of these questions points up two marked differences from those other years. These are uncertainty and lack of confidence.

We are caught in a tangle of military and political complications such as we have never faced before. We certainly do not want to fight a war in Manchuria, even if we could. We cannot pull out of Korea and away from Formosa without disastrous loss of face. Our allies do not want us to be involved in war in Asia; they want us to help defend Europe. Yet, if all Asia goes, what can save Europe? On the other hand, if we throw all our military forces into Asia, and even win there, what would we have left to defend Europe with? And all this is further complicated by our utter ignorance of Russia's plans.

As if uncertainty were not bad enough, there is the dreadful lack of confidence in our Government, both at home and abroad. Mr. Attlee's visit, after his talks with Premier Plevin of France, gave an external appearance of unity, but the very fact of the visit, asked for by him, betrayed the underlying suspicion that the Americans are not capable of handling the crisis in a wise or even intelligent fashion.

On the home front, here in Washington, it is true that the ranks closed immediately it was realized that this was it. In fact, it is necessary to revise the estimate I made last week that this last part of the 81st Congress would be a do-nothing one. It may now turn out to be one of the most important sessions in modern times. Vast decisions must be made and implemented. The bi-partisan policy will hold firm, and the Republicans have promised to vote the heavy expenditures asked by the President.

Yet, even there, behind the front of unity, is the same lack of confidence. The election campaign and events in Korea have left deep scars which will take long to heal. And there is the feeling that Russia has us on the run, no matter which way we turn.

At this writing, the only immediate question seemed to be: shall we withdraw all our forces from Korea before they are overwhelmed, and leave the faithful South Koreans to their fate? Or shall we order our own forces to die with the South Koreans, and leave ourselves defenseless all over the world? Before this appears, the hard decision will probably have been taken.

WILFRID PARSONS

## UNDERSCORINGS

Under a grant from the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation, Xavier University in Cincinnati will make a study of TV's effect upon children's homework. Walter J. Clarke, assistant professor of education at Xavier, will head an inquiry to be limited to parents, teachers and students of the Cincinnati area. Results will appear next summer.

► A confidential report received by AMERICA from behind the iron curtain emphasizes the generosity, "beyond all imagination," of the people of Poland in supporting their priests and religious. With all but state banks closed, Poland's Catholics can now only draw on the meager sums they have hidden away.

► The first number, the fall issue of the new literary quarterly, *A.D. 1950*, has just appeared. Edited by Anne Fremantle, David Marshall and Demetrius Manousos, the journal aims to bring to the reading public truly distinguished fiction. The first number presents an interesting interview with novelist Evelyn Waugh and several short stories by leading Catholic authors.

► On Dec. 2, Secretary of the Navy Francis P. Matthews was elected vice-president of the United Defense Fund, Inc., a federation of Community Chests with other private welfare agencies for joint financing of health and other services. Among member agencies to be financed by the Fund will be the National Catholic Community Service, formerly part of the USO but now part of the Associated Services for the Armed Forces, Inc.

► The *Historical Bulletin*, a service quarterly for teachers and students of history (St. Louis University, 221 Grand Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo.), has adopted a new and attractive format with its November issue, beginning Vol. XXIX. Besides several worthwhile articles, the issue contains 14 reviews of recent historical works, a "Current Bibliography" and "Notes." Price: \$2 per year.

► In a pamphlet, *Graft Is Your Business*, recently published by the Queen's Work (3115 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis 18, Mo.), Rev. John A. O'Brien of the University of Notre Dame states that Catholics should be particularly concerned about this threat to American democracy. Besides the basic remedy of closing the gap between private and public morality, Fr. O'Brien suggests definite reforms to reduce, if not to eliminate, graft in public life.

► The Newman Club of Brooklyn College will present Jacques Maritain in a public lecture on "The Problem of World Government" on Sunday, January 7, at 3:30 P.M., at the auditorium of the High School for Home-making, 901 Classon Ave., Brooklyn. Tickets are available from Prof. D. F. Coogan, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn 10, N. Y. General admission: \$1.50. Students: 75¢.

D. F.

## "Peace" collapses

Last week it became clear as crystal that the "cold" war had become "hot." Although it looked as if the United States would strive to win support for a "limited" war on Red China, while the free nations girded for an eventual war with Russia, the known developments were all negative.

### MACARTHUR'S EXPLANATION

As battered UN forces desperately sought to reunite and withdraw to a defense line near Korea's Thirty-Eighth Parallel, General Douglas MacArthur suddenly found it necessary to defend his questionable military strategy. Three press releases have found the General as articulate as ever in answer to criticism of his decisions.

On December 1 the New York Times published the General's reply to an inquiry made by Arthur Krock, chief of its Washington bureau. Had General MacArthur rejected authoritative suggestions that he hold back his advance into North Korea? Had the General stated that he would not accept the responsibility for the security of his troops if a decision to hold back were made, thus forcing the UN and President Truman to go along with his ill-fated strategy? The answer to both questions was an emphatic "no":

I have received no suggestion from any authoritative source that in the execution of its mission the Command should stop at the Thirty-Eighth Parallel or Pyongyang or at any line short of the international boundary. To have done so would have required revision of the resolutions of the United Nations and the directive received in implementation thereof.

Furthermore, his offensive of November 20 was in no way responsible for the subsequent onslaught of the Chinese Communist armies. The Communist decision to attack was "long premeditated and carried into execution as a direct result of the defeat of their North Korean satellite armies."

In its issue of December 8, *U. S. News & World Report* published the text of an exclusive interview with General MacArthur. The magazine's editors put 15 questions to him. Close study of the answers reveals that the UN Command had been sucked into a trap, though, by a process of artful dodging, the General attempted to convey the opposite impression.

The interview revealed that there had been no accurate appraisal of Chinese Communist strength. In answer to the question whether or not he had expected the winter offensive to be lengthy or a push-over, the General replied: "Had there been but an outer crust of enemy forces in front of our lines, the enveloping pressure from east and west would have effected its destruction." Though this estimate had been based on the mistaken belief that the UN forces had engaged but 60,000 men (by December 5 the number had jumped to 268,000, with 500,000 more in reserve), the General stated that "the tactical course taken was the only one which the situation

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permitted." In fact, he insisted that the offensive of November 20 had prevented a far worse disaster.

Published on the same day as the *U. S. News & World Report* interview was the text of a message the General sent to Hugh Baillie, president of the United Press. In this release General MacArthur stated that his offensive had brought out into the open the aggregate strength of the enemy. Near disaster, however, is a bitter way to discover that not 60,000 but over 200,000 men with a forbidding potential in reserves are actually facing our soldiers in the field. What has the Intelligence Section of the UN Command been doing? It knew of Chinese troop movements into Manchuria since last July. It knew of the massive convoys moving down from Manchuria. Yet it failed to realize the significance of these facts until prisoners, maps, orders and other sources of information actually fell into Allied hands.

One might expect General MacArthur to be articulate in defending his military strategy. In regard to political matters, however, his message to Mr. Baillie proved him much readier with answers than President Truman himself. The European attitude in the Korean crisis, thinks the General, is "selfish" and "short-sighted." It is "fallacious reasoning to regard dedication of friendly resource to the stabilization of Asia but a subtraction of that available for the security of Europe." The General is of the opinion that unless the war is won in the East it is likely to be lost in Europe. He offers no explanation as to why this should be so.

Despite the General's explanation, however, there remains one question as yet unanswered. In the beginning of November a Chinese Communist attack on the UN right and rear forced a withdrawal. The skillful maneuvering of General Walton Walker saved the UN forces from a grave reversal. Why did the UN army 19 days later again walk into the identical trap? Whatever the answer, MacArthur's prestige is far too great to be undermined by this reversal. His World War II record and brilliant postwar career in Japan, plus the terrific handicaps under which he has operated, lead us to hope that, on a longer view, his strategy will appear defensible.

### TRUMAN AND ATTLEE

In his now famous press conference on November 30, in which he told a reporter that there has always been active consideration of the use of the atom bomb, President Truman probably intended to give the Chi-

nese Communists something to think about. Instead he shocked the living daylight out of our friends in Europe. As a result, the French Premier, René Pleven, flew hastily to London for talks with Prime Minister Attlee, and almost immediately thereafter Mr. Attlee came winging across the Atlantic to see President Truman. Despite obvious efforts to maintain a show of unity, it was clear that our European allies had deep misgivings about American reactions to the crisis in Korea and wanted to talk things over before irrevocable decisions had been made.

There is no secret about the fears of the Europeans. They are frankly afraid of war. They are not prepared for it militarily, and are even less ready for it psychologically. They are also afraid lest the United States become involved in a full-scale war with Communist China. They reason that if the United States becomes bogged down in Asia, Stalin will move against an almost defenseless Europe. There will then be no question of stopping the Soviet hordes at the Elbe, or even at the Rhine. There will be question only of a long and destructive war of liberation, and Western Europe, after the dreadful experience of the Nazi occupation, doesn't want any more wars of liberation.

No doubt Prime Minister Attlee, speaking not merely for Great Britain, but for all our allies in Europe, has strongly presented this point of view to President Truman. It is one with which the President and all the American people are not unsympathetic. The United States does not want war either, and it certainly has no desire to become involved in a major struggle with the Chinese Communists. In the face of the world-wide aggression of Soviet Russia, Western Europe has the same priority in American strategic thinking that it enjoyed during World War II.

On the other hand, the United States is more conscious than are its allies of certain other factors in the Korean crisis. The vast majority of UN troops, if we except the South Koreans themselves, happen to be Americans. It is much easier for Europeans than it is for us to accept the possibility that they may be annihilated. It is also much easier for Europeans to consider a "deal" which would involve a humiliating diplomatic defeat. We have taken the most prominent part in the UN effort to put down aggression in Korea. Our people are in no mood to reward the aggressor by granting him a seat in the UN and making whatever other concessions he may exact.

Mr. Attlee surely understands this, since Britain is also committed to live by the UN Charter and has joined us in fighting to uphold it in Korea. He cannot have forgotten how Europeans cheered when President Truman ordered American forces to Korea, for they saw in our honorable and forthright action on that occasion a determination to honor the Atlantic Pact in the event of Soviet aggression against them.

As he told the Press Club, on December 6, Mr. Attlee did not come seeking a Munich. If he argues for some deal with the Chinese Communists, he is not thinking in terms of appeasement. Rather, in the

shrewd, hard-boiled tradition of European power politics, he is suggesting that we cut our losses in Korea, the better to be able to fight another day. If the United States rejects this approach, it must frankly face the likelihood that the American army in Korea faces further reverses and possible evacuation.

We do not envy the men who, as we write, are still discussing these matters at the White House. They are debating peace and war, and the whole future of civilization on this globe. May God enlighten and guide them. May they succeed, in Mr. Attlee's phrase, in aligning their policies, so that Western Europe, and all the rest of the free world, will stand with us against the unparalleled menace from Moscow.

#### NO HOPE THROUGH UN

As we went to press last week the cardinal question appeared to be: would the Chinese armies stop of their own accord at the Thirty-Eighth parallel, or could they be induced to do so by diplomacy either inside or outside the United Nations? There seemed not the slightest ground for hope that the routed remnants of the UN forces could be rallied to make a stand at or even anywhere near that line. There was talk, in fact, of one or more Dunkerques, though the more optimistic military men claimed that two or three beachheads might be reached and maintained.

The collapse of the UN's military offensive made it extremely unlikely that its diplomatic offensive would succeed. General Wu Hsiu-chuan, Red China's UN spokesman, had made it clear in his ultimatum to the Security Council on November 28 that his regime would be satisfied with nothing less than the withdrawal of all "alien forces" from the Korean peninsula. The victorious Red armies were well on the way toward making that withdrawal compulsory. Why pull up short at the request of the vanquished?

As fast as they were made, General Wu, it was understood, was passing on to Peiping the various appeals for a cease-fire and the opening of negotiations. Their tenor was the same as that expressed in the appeal signed December 5 by representatives of thirteen non-Western nations under the leadership of India's Sir Benegal Rau:

Such a declaration [of non-intent to cross the Thirty-Eighth Parallel] will give time for considering what further steps are necessary to resolve the conflict in the Far East and thus help to avert the danger of another world war.

It was doubtful whether the Peiping regime would be intimidated by the implied threat that the UN would wage all-out war if the Chinese Reds crossed the Thirty-Eighth Parallel. All the diplomatic moves emanating from the UN are moves not from strength, but from weakness—and Peiping knows it. The American radio and newspapers have exposed every detail of that weakness and, more important, much of the discussion upon which final decisions will be based.

Peiping must know from these sources that nothing it does in Korea will provoke a general war. The British-French influence in Washington has made that



a certainty. On the other hand, it is just as clear from the American press and radio that public opinion will not permit the United States Government to pay Peiping's price for a Korean settlement: evacuation of all Korea, withdrawal of the Seventh Fleet from Formosan waters, and accreditation of Red China to the UN.

We can imagine Chinese intelligence agents—and Russian—building up, from the often indiscreet revelations of our news reports, a picture of the British-American plan and forwarding it posthaste to their home offices. It would probably look something like this: "The imperialists want a cease-fire to save what is left of their forces. They will probably agree to get out of Korea, and be glad to. They will agree to negotiate the Formosan question, but they will not agree to give the People's Government a seat in the UN. But beware of these negotiations. They do not mean peace. The American press is full of statements that the Korean defeat is only one battle lost in a campaign, the campaign being what they call a 'limited war.' President Truman himself hinted as much when he said to a child-care meeting that 'no matter how the immediate situation may develop, we must remember that the fighting in Korea is but one part of the tremendous struggle of our time.' The imperialists' plan, after they extricate their forces from Korea, is to attack China at long-range, by sea and air, in the hope of inciting our people to revolt."

It was not surprising that Mr. Vishinsky, who seems to have more latitude than General Wu, and who reads our papers, rejected out of hand on December 6 the thirteen-nation appeal for a cease-fire, presumably on behalf of his little Red brother. His flat rejection presaged a similar welcome for the six-nation resolution presented the same day to the General Assembly asking the Chinese Reds to withdraw entirely from Korea.

## ***Democracy in the classroom***

The 1,500 delegates who went to Minneapolis for the thirtieth annual convention of the National Council for the Social Studies on November 23-25 heard a great deal about teaching "controversial issues" in the classroom. The group's Committee on Academic Freedom insisted that students at all levels of schooling—elementary, secondary and college—should have "freedom to learn." Provided that "controversial subjects" are really matters of opinion and that they are handled in an objective and nonpartisan way, no one can quarrel with this proposition.

In our judgment, however, the most important function of a school, precisely in the areas of social, economic and political discussion, is to explain the fundamental truths on which democracy rests. American democracy, in particular, has from its beginnings been based on a rather well-defined body of principles. This is the core of the "American heritage." By virtue of their primary purpose of grounding our children in good citizenship, our public schools have a special

responsibility to ground students in our American democratic heritage. Several prominent speakers in Minneapolis stressed this obligation.

On account of the ideological struggle in which we are today engaged, educational authorities have shown a new awareness of the role of the school as a bulwark of American democracy. The Educational Policies Commission of the National Educational Association published a timely booklet last June, *American Education and International Tensions* (1201 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C., 25¢), in which it laid down the "main lines of strategy" to be followed by teachers in what was then the "cold" war.

In line with the recommendations of the Commission, the Board of Regents of New York State has recently taken definite steps to strengthen the teaching of American history and the American heritage in the high schools of the Empire State. Last October, Chancellor William J. Wallin, speaking for the Regents, announced the appointment of a committee of nationally known authorities to assist the State Department of Education in carrying out this policy. "In the 'cold war' that is impending," declared the Chancellor, "the fundamental issue is between ideologies. . . . Faith in democracy . . . needs to be based on facts and on sound reasoning." He deplored the fact that the American people, and presumably American schools, were taking a "defensive attitude about democracy." The New York plan is to contrast the rights of citizens in a democracy, for example, with the deprivation of those rights under totalitarian systems.

Teachers in Catholic schools have the same responsibility as teachers in public schools to educate their students in good citizenship. It is reassuring to know that they have been discharging this responsibility.

In the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of New York the syllabus on history and civics adopted early in 1947 contained the very contrast Chancellor Wallin suggested between the rights every citizen enjoys in a democracy and their deprivation under Communist systems. This contrast is exemplified in respect to freedom of the person and other civil liberties, representative government and economic freedom. High American living standards are contrasted with the "miserable" way people live under Marxism.

The same syllabus compares the contributions of the United States with those of Russia in war and post-war aid, and their respective ways of participating in the United Nations. This factual approach to the study of democracy is used in many Catholic dioceses. As in New York, it is often applied to high-school as well as elementary-school teaching.

Catholic teachers are in a particularly favorable position to combine the teaching of democratic principles with discussions of "controversial issues." We distinguish clearly between basic truths and matters of opinion. Without that distinction the fundamental truths on which democracy rests too often become "controversial," with results that have been disastrous to the cause of freedom, notably abroad, but also even here at home.

# One more question, Mr. President!

M. Amrine, E. A. Conway, S.J., M. S. Levine

**DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:** In your reply to questions at your press conference on November 30 about the use of the atom bomb and also in the clarifying statement issued later the same afternoon from the White House, you stated that there has been active consideration of the use of the bomb since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea.

You issued your clarifying statement to "make it certain that there is no misinterpretation" of your answers at the press conference. In search of further certainty we beg leave to ask one more question:

In this "active consideration" of the use of the atom bomb is due attention being given to the moral questions involved in its use? Or, to rephrase the query, does our Government consider the question of how the bomb is to be used just a military question?

This point arose during one exchange at your conference, and your answer was explicit—and, as the indirect transcript testifies, very swift. We believe half the panic abroad arose from the not unwarranted fear that the bomb might be used as swiftly.

After you had replied to a questioner that there has always been active consideration of the use of the atom bomb, since it is one of our weapons, the following exchange ensued, according to the *Washington Post*:

Q. "Does that mean, Mr. President, use against military objectives or civilian . . . ?"

A. Mr. Truman, interposing said . . . that it was a matter that the military people will have to decide—that he was not the military authority that passes on those things.

After confusing press reports had spread the impression abroad that you had authorized General MacArthur to use the bomb in Korea, your clarifying statement was issued in which it was explained that:

Only the President can authorize the use of the atom bomb, and no such authorization has been given. If and when such authorization should be given, the military commander in the field would have charge of the tactical delivery of the weapon.

That last sentence, it seems to us, Mr. President, itself needs clarification. Does it mean that you decide only the "if and when" and that "the manner of its use will be subject to determination by the military commander in the field"? We hope that this interpretation, found in a *Washington Post* editorial obviously trying to put the best possible construction on your remarks, is another misinterpretation. The atom bomb is not immoral in itself. It is the *manner* in which it is used that determines the morality or immorality of atomic bombing. Do you actually intend to leave to

A Catholic, a Jew and a Protestant explore some of the moral implications of President Truman's stated position on the use of the atom bomb. Father Conway, Associate Editor of *AMERICA*, is joined by Murray S. Levine, chairman of the New York Committee on Atomic Energy, and Michael Amrine, former education director of Brookhaven Atomic Laboratory.

the harried judgment of a field commander the choice between, say, the bombing of military installations, which is legitimate, and the terror-bombing of civilians, which is not?

Please do not misunderstand us, Mr. President. We do not ask the United States to give up its atomic weapons, nor even to give the impression that they would not be used. We agree with the *Washington Post* that it would have been irresponsible folly on your part to renounce categorically the use, under any circumstances, of our most potent weapon, and that you were well advised to emphasize that it is a usable weapon, not a museum piece. What we do seek is a clearer explanation of the circumstances in which it would be used, and the assurance that you and your civilian advisers will dictate not only the *if and when*, but the *circumstances* themselves.

We fear, Mr. President, that unless you retain such control, military expediency alone will be the sole criterion. In this connection we quote from a masterly document opportunely published just three days before your press conference by the Federal Council of Churches, entitled "The Christian Conscience and Weapons of Mass Destruction." The basic fear of the drafting committee, which included, besides a score of eminent Protestant theologians, three prominent laymen who had been associated with atomic projects, is that the United States will follow the philosophy of "total war," or "war in which all moral restraints are thrown aside and all the purposes of the community are fully controlled by sheer military expediency."

The Committee voices a warning that all of us should heed as we move ever deeper into conflict:

We must recognize that the greater the threat to national existence the greater will be the temptation to subordinate everything, all civil rights, the liberty of conscience, all moral judgments regarding the means to be used, and all consideration of postwar international relations, to the single aim of military victory. . . . Just as death is preferable to life under some conditions, so, too, victory at any price is not worth having. If this price is for us to become utterly brutal, victory becomes a moral defeat. Victory is worth having only if it leaves us with enough reserves of decency, justice and mercy to build a better world and only if it leaves those we have conquered in a condition in which they can ultimately cooperate in the task of setting forward God's purpose in creation. Hence the way we fight and the means we use are of crucial importance. Military expediency . . . cannot be the sole test, but must be subordinated to moral and political considerations.

The military commander in the field cannot be expected to give proper weight to those considerations. It is just because his sole test is military expediency that the moral choices involved in atomic bombing cannot be left to him. Upon those choices may well depend the whole future of our civilization. Therefore, says the Federal Council's committee: "The national government must not yield to the military its own responsibility for the immediate and the postwar consequences of the conduct of the war."

Undoubtedly this consideration influenced Congress in 1946 when, after long and serious discussion of military versus civilian control of atomic energy, it passed the Atomic Energy Act. Do we misinterpret that Act, Mr. President, when we observe that it seems to invest you with wider responsibility for the conduct of an atomic war than you seem to have acknowledged either in your press conference or in your clarifying statement? We refer specifically to the section which gives you supreme authority over the atom bomb:

The President from time to time may direct the Commission 1) to deliver such quantities of fissionable materials or weapons to the armed forces *for such use as he deems necessary* in the interest of national defense (Emphasis supplied).

That, Mr. President, is an extremely broad grant of discretionary power, as you—and we say it sympathetically—must be only too well aware. In another field it would undoubtedly be subject sooner or later to review by the Supreme Court for official interpre-

tation of the intent of Congress. But this grant of power is unique, in the sense that the decision you make under it will be final, subject to no review excepting history's.

As we read the Act, it empowers you to turn the bombs over to the military to be used in the way *you*—which in effect is you and the National Security Council—deem necessary. In other words, the law seems to give you responsibility not only for the *if* and *when*, but for the *how* this weapon is used. It would therefore seem inconsistent with the letter of the law if you were to delegate to a military subordinate part of that decision which by law devolves upon you. We have already noted that it is just the part of the decision most fraught with danger to the ultimate purposes of our foreign policy. Even if it would not be inconsistent with the letter, would it not be inconsistent with the spirit of the law, with what seems to have been the obvious intent of Congress, and with the tradition of the American people, who have always guarded the primacy of the civilian over the military in matters of national defense?

We have asked more than one question, we admit. But they boil down to this request. Will you, in the way you deem best, further clarify your atom bomb policy? The questions we have raised are real questions which are bothering, we believe, not only ourselves but millions more at home and abroad. Only you, Mr. President, can allay the fears your press conference caused in the minds of your fellowmen.

## ***The Middle East: next hot spot?***

***Vincent S. Kearney***

**E**VER SINCE the East-West cold war began to simmer on the Korean peninsula, the prophets of impending doom have been focusing attention on certain other vulnerable sectors of Western defense along the vast perimeter of the Communist world. Allied-occupied Germany is one. The recalcitrant satellite, Yugoslavia, is another. Indo-China, where the Communist-sparked civil war is fast assuming the proportions of the Korean aggression, is a third. Iran, the Soviet gateway to the oil-rich Middle East, is still another. Whether or not the Chinese intervention in Korea promises indefinite prolongation of the bitter fight, which had already been won by the UN army, the way is open for any aggressive move the Kremlin may choose to make in other parts of the world. With almost the entire standing army of the United States engaged in Korea, our defense line is open to attack in Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

As the USSR bides its time before again probing

*In the two following articles the problems which face the Western democracies in the Middle East and Europe are analyzed. Father Kearney, who discusses the Middle East situation, is an associate editor of AMERICA. Colonel Lanza, who reviews the problems of European defense, is a former instructor in strategy at the War College.*

Western weaknesses, the importance of the Middle East in the ideological conflict looms enormous. While the pros and cons of Korea's strategic value to the West could be argued interminably, the military, political and economic importance of the Middle East is simply not debatable. Three factors make it imperative that the area be aligned with the West.

1. The size and desirability of the region's oil resources—one-half of the known oil stock in the world lies buried beneath Middle Eastern sands—preclude any possibility that it could remain neutral in the event of World War III.

2. As a pivot on which the broad arm of Western defense can swing to meet the threat of Russian imperialism in Europe, the Middle East is indispensable.

3. To ignore the Middle East is to run the risk of allowing that same imperialism to burst in on the countries that border the one peaceful area left in Asia, the Indian Ocean.



For the same reasons the region plays an important role in Russian expansionist dreams. Thus the Middle East is inevitably caught in the center of the East-West tug of war.

Russia's desire for territorial expansion toward the Persian Gulf and its warm-water ports has been ancient, persistent and relentless. Her frontiers at each end of the Black Sea and around the Caspian have been shifting, almost always forward, for centuries. The presence of oil in the area is but an added fillip to age-old ambition. As Kenneth de Courcy, editor of the London publication, *Intelligence Digest*, stated in Washington on November 16, the Middle East is "the most strategic area in the world." His prediction that the next Soviet move would be a swift attack in the Middle East combined with a simultaneous Chinese Communist thrust into Southeast Asia should not be taken lightly. For, with the Middle East and Southeast Asia in Communist hands, the vast subcontinent of India would be caught in a vise, the back door to Europe would be closed to the West, and the Atlantic Pact nations would lose 65 per cent of their crude-oil supply.

The past four years have witnessed intensive Soviet activity in the Middle East. Had not a carefully planned *coup d'état* gone awry in Iran in 1946, Russia would now have had a strong foothold in the region. With Iran under Soviet control, Russia's domination of the entire area would have been automatic. Nothing would have stood in the way of the Soviet war machine but a series of exposed, naturally indefensible borders as far west as the Mediterranean and as far south as the Suez Canal.

The Soviet *coup* eventually failed, but not through any effective resistance the Iranian Government was able to offer. An aroused UN Security Council, vigorously supported by the United States, forced the withdrawal of the Red Army from Iran in May, 1946. The collapse of a separatist movement led by the Iranian Communist Tudeh party forestalled the possibility of re-creating a situation so ripe for Soviet picking. In spite of its failure, however, Russia's cleverly planned designs on the sovereignty of Iran demonstrated how a combination of political and military pressure could come close to achieving total success in the relatively defenseless Middle East. The plan tried out in Iran has provided the pattern on which future Soviet expansionist activities in the Middle East will no doubt be modeled.

Since 1946 Russia has continued to exert pressure. Boycott of Iranian goods, a stepped-up program of radio attacks, sporadic violations of the frontier, and a series of stiff protests against the use of American

technical help in surveys for the Iranian Oil Company have added to Iran's chronic fear of Soviet expansion southward. A recent trade pact putting an end to the Russian boycott of Iranian goods has produced evidence of a change in the country's hostile attitude toward her mammoth neighbor to the north. Yet this very fact is only a demonstration that Iran, caught between two fires, is as jittery as ever, not knowing which way to turn.

The Kremlin chose Iran as a focal point in its post-war Communist maneuvers because the political and economic instability of that country was supposed to facilitate easy intervention in its affairs. The same instability is characteristic of every country in the Arab World. Furthermore, the vast gulf between upper and lower classes, destitution, unemployment, oppressive taxation, illiteracy, undernourishment, intolerable conditions of public and private health—all these factors make these countries a tempting and easy target for Communist aims.

On the other hand, granting for the sake of argument that the Soviet interest in Iran has been and is purely defensive in character and not part of a Communist plan for world domination, control of Iran alone is not sufficient to quell Russian fears in this part of the world.

The dominant factor in Soviet fear is oil. Three-fourths of Russia's supply comes from the region of the Caucasus. Her key oil center is at Baku, a scant 125 miles from the Iranian frontier. As the short history of the Soviet Union has proved, the Communist concept of defense demands the multiplication of security zones. Thus, if her intended control of Iran is to provide protection for her present vulnerable oil supply, Russia must eliminate all non-Soviet influence in the Middle East, as she has done in Eastern Europe. Long-range planning must also envision domination of the dangerously close air bases in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Levant States and Egypt.

Apart from these considerations, a brief glance at a map will demonstrate that Iran, together with Greece and Turkey, forms the important link in the chain of Western defense against the threat of Soviet expansionism. There has been no difficulty in aligning these countries with the Atlantic Pact nations. The problem for the Western Powers lies rather with the countries to the south—Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt. All are militarily weak and tragically unconcerned about the strategic position they hold, both geographically and economically, on the world scene. As long as they remain so, it is useless to strengthen Greece, Turkey and Iran.

The tendency in the Middle East is to view all the great Powers as equally self-interested. The Western



democracies have been hard put to it, for example, to convince the Arab world of the vital connection between the building of a bastion of defense in Greece, Turkey and Iran and the settlement of the mutual differences which have arisen as a result of the Palestine war. These individual antagonisms have done much to perpetuate the chronic instability of the area.

The hostility of the Arab nations towards Israel will not die quickly or easily. At the same time, the Palestine war has reopened old wounds and deepened the old quarrels which have long lurked in the hidden corners of Arab League meetings. Inland Jordan would probably conclude a peace treaty with Israel tomorrow. Because of her long frontier with the Jewish state she would like access to Israeli ports. On the other hand, there is no economic advantage for either Egypt or Saudi Arabia in allowing Israel freedom of trade with the Arab World. Hence the old dynastic feuds between Jordan on the one side and Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the other receive a new lease on life. The Arab League is probably not headed for a smash-up, but the current tensions render it impotent as an instrument of regional defense. Likewise, Israel, obsessed as she is with internal problems, is loath to raise her head and look to regional issues. The result is a condition of regional instability that would make the area a push-over for Russia.

In the Middle East the Western Powers therefore have their work cut out for them, if they would beat an ever-watchful Russia to the draw. Three courses of action are open to them. The first is to reach military agreement with one or more of the states south of Greece, Turkey and Iran. Second, since it seems impossible at this time for the Arab world as a whole to reach agreement with Israel, at least some temporary arrangement must be worked out between Israel and those Arab countries which need Israeli ports. Third, social and economic reform under the Point Four Program must be pressed on.

But suspicion and fear of all outsiders run high in the Middle East as in all those parts of the world which have had past experience with colonial and mandate Powers. Pacts with the West will be welcomed only if they are presented to the people in the form of unconditional gifts. If a military treaty implies the establishment of bases manned by a foreign army, if offers of economic aid entail Western supervision and encouragement to deal with Israel, then the Arab world is apt to view them with mistrust. Resentment against "Western interference" in the internal affairs of these countries is so great that no individual government would contemplate handling any more than one of the military, political and economic problems at a time, if the solutions are to be worked out on the basis of pacts and treaties with the West.

The average man on the street in the Middle East has been fed too long on hatred and illusion. The relationship between government and the governed is founded on the practice of feeding the populace with the pap it likes to hear. It seems to be traditional

to avoid the obligation of acquainting the people with distasteful truths, even when sound policy demands that such truths be told. Witness the present anti-British ferment in Egypt. Not since 1942 have Anglo-Egyptian relations been so close to the explosion point. In an effort to cover up misrule, corruption and graft, the Egyptian Government has thrown up a nationalist smoke screen. The Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936, giving Great Britain the right to maintain troops in Egypt for twenty years for the protection of the Suez Canal, is once again under fire. Yet to remove these troops would leave a dangerous gap in the defenses of the whole Mediterranean area.

A good deal of spade work is necessary before any Western-sponsored military or economic program in that area can be effective. The people must first be awakened to the realities of a tense world situation. They must be divested of their illusions of neutrality. They must be convinced not only that no Middle Eastern country could defend itself today without British or American help but also that they may be forced to defend themselves as a regional unit sooner than they think. A Russian move toward the Suez Canal is definitely less remote today than was the German-Italian advance in 1936. A strong Middle East, aligned with the Western democracies and presenting a potential threat to Russia's vulnerable oil supplies in the Caucasus in case of Soviet aggression, could mean the difference between World War III and peace—or the difference between victory and defeat, should war come.

## *The defense of Europe*

*Col. Conrad H. Lanza*

WITH THE INVASION of North Korea by the Chinese Red armies, people are wondering what position we are in to defend Europe, should the Russians attack. In a previous article the present writer has discussed the rearming of Germany, which everyone agrees is essential to the defense of Western Europe (AM. 12/2, pp. 275-77). The next question is: how does the North Atlantic pact stand as a means of defense?

When World War II ended in 1945, the following assumptions relative to the world-wide military situation prevailed:

1. Only Germany and Japan were guilty of having caused World War II, with all its dreadful tragedies.
2. Another world war must and could be avoided, provided the "right" policies were adopted.
3. To prevent another world war, Germany and Japan must not only be disarmed but punished to an extent which would forever deter any nation from resorting to aggression. If a nation had a grievance,

let it submit the grievance to the United Nations, which could maintain peace throughout the world.

4. Under such conditions, it would be safe for the victors to disarm. The United States set the example by dismantling its own war machine, the greatest accumulation of military power ever assembled in human history.

The punishing of defeated nations through a juridical process, as an act of international justice, is a development of this century. Leaders of the nations judged guilty of aggressive warfare were tried, held up to opprobrium and hanged for having engaged in such warfare. Lesser officials, such as bankers and industrial chiefs, were sent to prison. Members of political parties in power during the period leading up to the outbreak and during the actual conduct of war were barred from public offices and often deprived of the right of employment, except as laborers.

Over-populated Germany and Japan were reduced in area by being dispossessed of territories they had previously held. Germans and Japanese living outside the shrunken boundaries of those countries, including families domiciled abroad for centuries, were uprooted and sent to their country of origin. Their homes, property and businesses were confiscated. Millions were condemned to slave labor.

Industries within the diminished areas of Germany and Japan were destroyed. Shipping, air fleets and certain manufactures were prohibited. Governments were remodeled as the victors ordered. Schools were required to provide the type of education dictated by the victors. Political relations with foreign states and foreign trade were controlled.

#### ASSUMPTIONS AND REALITY

Believing that the foregoing measures would prevent another world war, the United States, in the period immediately following 1945, concentrated on relieving the distress of devastated Western Europe. By June, 1947 we had decided that it would be better to organize our assistance so that it would *rehabilitate* the economies of the recipients of our aid, and the Marshall Plan was devised. Since 1948, under ECA, Western Europe has annually been given billions of dollars, mostly in the form of American supplies.

The United States insisted that this aid be used only for *economic* purposes. No military build-up was considered necessary. Western Europe agreed to this stipulation.

By 1947, the assumptions underlying our immediate postwar policies began to receive some severe jolts. Russia was beginning to pose a serious threat to the peace of the world. The first European nations to do anything about this threat were France, Great Britain and the Benelux states (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg). On March 17, 1948 they signed the Brussels Treaty, providing for mutual aid in case of attack. This treaty is still in effect. Under it a General Headquarters has been organized in Fontainebleau, France, under British Field Marshal Mont-

gomery. Largely owing to lack of troops, however, the Brussels Treaty Powers have never advanced beyond the planning stage. Their report of April 5, 1949 stated that without aid from the United States they were unable to do much. They haven't.

As tension with Russia increased, the United States, by late 1948, became alarmed. Whereas in previous world wars the United States had been a late contestant, it now seemed probable that in a new war we might well be involved from the beginning. It seemed obvious that if we lost the war, the victor would impose the same kind of punishments upon us as had been imposed on the losers after World War II, with our acquiescence. That would mean the end of the independence of the United States. Consequently, we simply cannot afford to lose a war.

These considerations led to our opening negotiations with Western Europe in order to be certain to have needed allies. The United States, with Canada, would guarantee to go to the help of Western Europe against a Russian invasion and a sure-to-follow occupation. Western Europe would agree to aid the United States in denying to Russia territory in Western Europe which would furnish, if not defended, air and submarine bases for attacks on North America. These negotiations led to



the signing of the North Atlantic Pact at Washington on April 4, 1949. The charter members were the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy and Portugal—in all, twelve nations.

The essential part of the North Atlantic Treaty is Article 5, which provides that "an armed attack against one or more of the signatories in Europe or North America shall be considered as attack against them all." The treaty is binding for twenty years, but may be amended after ten years. New members may be admitted, with the unanimous agreement of the original signatories.

#### WAR DANGERS TO U. S. AND EUROPE

Bombing of our cities by masses of planes, such as occurred in Germany and Japan during World War II, is improbable if our Air Force has suitable bases, remains undefeated or is not preoccupied elsewhere. Through the Atlantic pact the United States has won bases in Canada, Greenland and Iceland to protect us against air attacks from the North or across the North Atlantic. We already have established bases in the Far North, and they can be expanded. Single hostile planes seeking to pass our lines without detection must be handled by our own forces.

Shelling of coast cities by submarines is considered



by many to be a greater danger than aerial bombing. German V-2 rockets had a range of 300 miles, and Russia seems to have improved the range of such weapons. Submarines, almost certainly Russian, have been off our New England and our entire Pacific coasts at intervals for over a year. We know they can reach our waters undetected. Having Western Europe as allies should reduce Russian naval operations by blocking the exits from the Black and Baltic seas.

Invasion of the United States by air is not an immediate danger. It may become so after Russia has built a fleet of long-range transport planes. With Western Europe allied to us, it would be difficult for Russia to launch air attacks against the United States.

Our greatest danger would be to lose the next war and suffer the punishments imposed on Germany and Japan. We cannot afford to take any chances, and must welcome any ally available.

Land and air invasion of Western Europe by Russia is feasible and greatly feared. None of our allies on the Continent, nor all of them together, have the strength to stop the vast armies gathered behind the iron curtain.

Western Europe could have armed itself since 1945. Industrial plants have been rebuilt and have reached production levels higher than pre-World War II. But they have had no orders for war matériel because, until the Korean crisis, the United States insisted that Western Europe concentrate on *economic* recovery. We now favor rapid arming of Western Europe. How to accomplish this end, however, has raised some very difficult problems.

The first is *financial*. Through ERP we have been furnishing Western Europe with supplies which their governments have sold to balance their budgets. Military supplies, however, whether produced here or in Europe, are merely a financial drain and cannot be used to stabilize economies. European governments are afraid to raise their taxes any higher because this policy would further depress their already low standards of living. The solution proposed is for the United States to carry the financial burden, not only here, but abroad.

Then there are serious *military* problems. France and Germany doubt that Russia will wait until Western Europe rearms. They therefore want their non-Continental allies to furnish a covering force of troops to protect them against Russian attack while they do rearm. The formation of a covering force has been agreed to, with the details, of course, kept as top secrets. France and the Benelux countries are, in fact, to contribute to this covering force. But no fair-sized force could be assembled before next spring.

Owing to diverse national interests, alliances are hard to handle. After a year and a half, the members of the North Atlantic pact, for example, have been unable to agree what to do about Germany.

Between two opposing forces of about equal size, one of which is a single Power, the other an alliance, the latter is the weaker. The single Power will make

decisions quickly. The alliance is handicapped by the need to consult all its members. It has therefore been proposed that the North Atlantic forces be organized as a West European Army under a single commander with complete authority to act without being required to consult the home governments. The Defense Ministers at their October meeting in Washington accepted this idea and almost agreed to accept General Eisenhower for the post. But at this date no final agreement has been reached.

Our Secretary of State has repeatedly stated that our idea was to make Western Europe so strong that no one would attack her. Then there would be no war. Russia would remember the punishment inflicted on the losers after World War II and would not take the risk.

The \$64 question is: will Russia play this game? Will she wait until the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has created a powerful force in Western Europe? No one in this country knows the answer. Neither do we know what the various members of the NATO will do if war comes *before* they have organized the defense of Western Europe. Prime Minister Attlee's mission to Washington, where he arrived December 4 after consulting with French authorities, will probably have clarified this question by the time this article appears, though the answer will hardly be made public.

## ***NCCCUSA: Protestant common action***

***Edward Duff, S.J.***

CLEVELAND WAS STILL digging itself out from under its smothering of snow at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, November 29 when Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, President of the United Lutheran Church, looked down on an assembly of almost 4,000 delegates, representing 25 Protestant denominations and four Eastern Orthodox bodies gathered in the city's public auditorium. "I declare," he said, "that the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America is officially constituted. Let us now dedicate it to the glory of God and to the service of mankind."

The *Christian Century*, non-denominational Protestant weekly, had editorialized in its November 29 issue that the delegates were assembled "to achieve an object more significant for Protestant Christianity than any one action taken since the passage of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom in 1785." The Rev. Dr. Carl McIntire, president of the noisy, fundamentalist International Council of Christian Churches, was on the scene at Cleveland, however (as he had been at Amsterdam during the First Assembly of the World

Council of Churches and at Bangkok during the meeting of the International Missionary Council), to protest against this new development in Protestantism. "Another milepost on the road to a super-church . . . a whistle stop on the train back to Rome," said Rev. McIntire. The organization that came into being on November 27 is no "whistle stop." The denominations represented in it, through cooperating agencies, number 32 million Americans. Nor can it be said that the National Council of Churches of Christ in America is Romeward bound. NCCCUSA is not a merger of churches: it has no authority or control over the member churches in the matter of creed or worship or government. It is, essentially, a new union of cooperating interdenominational Protestant agencies. It is, structurally, a consolidation of eight formerly existing service agencies.

Contemporary Protestantism is characterized by a quest for united action, more marked, perhaps, than its search for organic unity. The Reformation principle of unhampered individualism is scarcely conducive to effective opposition to the forces of secularism and organized materialism. Recognition of the obvious need of pooled Protestant effort, which has come to fruition in the NCCCUSA, was first seen by a group of laymen who in 1832 held a National Sunday School Convention on an interdenominational basis. The missionary enterprise of the nineteenth century accelerated the cooperation of the Protestant churches. The scandal of sectarian bickering, the inefficiency of denominational duplication in the field and the lessening dogmatic conception of the very purpose of the missions definitely favored interdenominational collaboration.

The more immediate history of the NCCCUSA goes back to a conference held at Atlantic City in December, 1941, of representatives of the major Protestant interdenominational agencies that unanimously recommended "the creation of a single corporate agency to succeed all the existing councils."

The "single corporate agency" came into being at Cleveland on November 29 after almost a decade of study and planning by a committee headed by Dr. Luther A. Weigle, dean emeritus of Yale's Divinity School. The eight merging agencies were:

1. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, organized in 1908 as a federation of 23 Protestant and four Orthodox bodies cooperating in evangelism, social service and influencing of public opinion. The Federal Council's work in international relations and world peace, in interracialism and economic justice, was well-known. Its Department of Research and Education issued a thoughtful, well-documented weekly *Information Service*, edited by F. Ernest Johnson.

2. The Foreign Missions Conference of North America, which planned common programs of evangelism for 54 denominations with 99 mission boards to carry out overseas. Its foundation went back to 1893.

3. The Home Missions Council of North America, an organization which serviced 37 mission boards of 22 Protestant denominations working in rural areas, Alaska and our island territories.

4. The International Council of Religious Education, combining 40 Protestant denominational boards, which provided material and trained leadership for church schools, week-day religious education and vacation Bible Schools.

5. The National Protestant Council on Higher Education which maintained religious centers on college campuses and arranged seminars, conferences and sermons to assist students to see spiritual values.

6. The Missionary Education Movement of the U. S. and Canada which, since 1902, united missionary boards of 29 Protestant denominations in training leaders and in publishing mission books, pamphlets and teaching aids for interdenominational mission promotion.

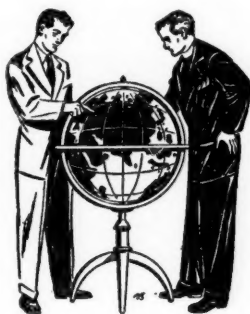
7. The United Council of Church Women, working through 1,600 interdenominational local and State councils. The Council promoted three annual events: the World Day of Prayer, on the first Friday in Lent; World Community Day in November, emphasizing overseas relief; and May Fellowship Day, heralding the ecumenical movement.

8. The United Stewardship Council was an agency of 28 Protestant denominations pooling methods and materials for promoting systematic and generous giving to the churches.

Two other agencies will find their place as Departments of the new National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. — Church World Service, the counterpart of the Catholic War Relief Services as the relief and DP resettlement instrument of American Protestant and Orthodox churches, and the Protestant Film and Radio Commissions.

The NCCCUSA's governing board will be a General Assembly consisting of representatives from the 29 constituting denominations in numbers proportioned to the numerical strength of each church. Structurally, the National Council is divided into four Divisions that will absorb the activities of the former eight interdenominational agencies. The functions of the Christian Education, of the Foreign Missions and of the Home Missions Divisions are manifest. The fourth, the Christian Life and Work Division, will continue most of the activities of the former Federal Council, especially in international and social problems. Joint commissions and departments will supervise activities common to two or more divisions.

The location of the headquarters of the National Council provided much debate at Cleveland and, indeed, for weeks before the constitutive convention. The *Christian Century* insisted that "the physical and



psychological center of American Protestantism lies well west of the Alleghenies and is moving further each year"—a fact that should debar selection of New York City as headquarters. A resolution enjoining the 100-man Executive Committee to limit the choice of a headquarters site to "within 400 miles of the center of population" was approved, but not by the necessary two-thirds majority.

The Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was chosen first president of the National Council for a two-year term. The selection of an Episcopalian was dictated by the preference of the Orthodox churches. Dr. Samuel McCrae Cavert, general secretary of the Federal Council since 1921, was elected general secretary of the new National Council.

Speaking to the United Council of Church Women in Cincinnati on November 12, Dr. Cavert predicted that the NCCCUSA would reinforce Protestantism by providing it "with a more united front" as a force

seeking "to mold the cultural life of the nation." The *Christian Century*, in its November 22 issue, saw the National Council as "an opportunity to reverse the trend of recent years." The trend, apparently, is found in the fact that:

Protestantism as a whole has given little evidence in recent years that it can preserve the Protestant character of American institutions or contend successfully with secularism and superstition [*i.e. Catholicism?*] for the soul of the nation.

President Truman's message of greeting to the Cleveland convention was more irenic. He expressed the hope that NCCCUSA

will enable the American churches to exert a greater influence in the strengthening of the spiritual foundation of our national life when a materialistic philosophy is rampant. . . . I hope the coming years will bring still greater unity of purpose and effort among the religious forces of America.

To those sentiments of the President, the Editors of AMERICA say an unfeigned Amen.

### *The woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee*

They were as much alone,

They two,

As only those can be

That have been shown

They don't belong.

She sensed, as women do,

Something was wrong

The moment she came in—

Suppose that it was she .

Saw the men's glances, sly and sideways-long,

Eying the woman of sin,

Each decorous and righteous to the bone,

In short, the Pharisee.

But she was very fair;

Her body's warmth, her unveiled scented hair

Proclaiming what she was. She was well known,

Stranger perhaps to only one man there,

The only one who did not turn and stare

As she came through,

Nor raise an eyebrow at the childlike air

With which she clutched her little box of stone.

She stood, to see—

Dear God, far off . . . but yes, His feet are bare

Well, this is He.

Those speaking, knowing eyes

All round did not perceive

God's mercy, first, in this:

He never stirred.

He who knew all her mind

Pretended to be blind,

With face averted, heard

The circling whisper, "Well, would you believe . . .

A woman of her kind . . .

Can He not see the prostitute she is?"

He, knowing all things, did not look behind,

Making no movement lest it come amiss,

## LITERATURE AND ARTS

Indeed, scarce breathing lest He should surprise

This girl, crying, her heart upon her sleeve—

Waited without a word

For her first kiss

She knelt beside his feet,

Unspeakably afraid.

Suppose He should not understand

The part the body played

In any woman's love, the wordless speech,

The tenderness of touch by face and hand

By which she is completed—or betrayed?

Despite her tears, she saw

God would not spurn the flesh that He had made.

But even so, in sinners, it is meet

To keep one's distance—love, but out of reach.

Her love He had, but she brought something more,

No impulse, no, deliberately planned,

Perhaps the greatest tribute ever paid—

Wet cheek and mouth by the Beloved laid,

Menial hands and hair serve and adore,

The ointment perfume rising from the floor

Sublimely sweet.

He saw, He knew:



His mercy did not fail,  
But reached to its perfection  
By indirection.  
He told His host a tale,  
Talking of love, giving her thus a token  
That He had understood without word spoken,  
Giving her, too,  
Moments in which to see *His* point of view:  
That she was herself the gift and there was no  
rejection.

Spoke of her faith, a curious comment, hid  
From all save One who realized what she did,  
Forgave her sins and sent her on her way,  
Then turned to face the Pharisees' dismay  
While she went out, in peace, as she was bid,  
Bearing her alabaster box and lid,  
Fragrant, empty, unbroken.

ELIZABETH SEWELL

### Solemn High Mass at St. John's

Was ever God so praised, so sung, His Name  
Raised to each voice's height till skies  
Sound a loud *Domine*? Was ever fame  
Published so far as heaven's very eyes?

And what rejoicing here that can so swell  
A *Gloria* none hears but shall be borne  
In song-waves to His shore whose surgings tell  
How joys rise up from depths that weep and mourn?

What visitors are they now crowding through  
Gates of the *Sanctus* opened pealing wide,  
What heels flash brightness and what wings pursue?  
Is His throne then unwatched, unfortified?

But see, His hosts but follow Him who stands  
Bread-throned for us and in His servant's hands.

GLORIA STEIN

### The best in existence

#### JESUS CHRIST, HIS LIFE, HIS TEACHING AND HIS WORK

By Ferdinand Prat, S.J. Translated from  
the sixteenth French edition by John J.  
Heenan, S.J. Bruce. 2 Vols. 560p. and  
558p. \$12.

When so eminent a scripture scholar as  
the Dominican Père Lagrange, who him-  
self has written a classic two-volume life  
of Christ, says another's Life of Christ is  
the best in existence, then the new work  
demands a reading. Unfortunately for  
most American readers, however, Ferdin-  
nan Prat's *Jesus Christ, His Life, His  
Teaching and His Work*, the book praised  
so highly, has until now not been avail-  
able in English. The scrupulous scholar-  
ship of the author, who appreciated the  
defects so natural in any such monumen-  
tal work, made him hesitate to grant per-  
mission to have his book translated. Now,  
finally, after sixteen French editions, the  
"best life of Christ in existence" makes its  
American debut. For that we can be  
grateful to the Bruce Publishing Com-  
pany, which has just added it to the list of  
titles in its Science and Culture Series.

Even a casual reading of this superb  
translation makes one realize why Père  
Lagrange was so enthusiastic. In its Eng-  
lish version the work loses none of the  
flavor of the original. It combines the  
piety and devotion of Alban Goodier, the  
*Wissenschaft* of Abbé Fouard, the apolo-  
getics of Ricciotti and the simple reading  
appeal of Papini.

From the preface to the index (each  
volume, incidentally, has a complete index  
to the entire work), the two heavy vol-  
umes are a testimony to unobtrusive  
scholarship. The ordinary reader will be  
content and well repaid for reading the  
principal text; the studious priest or theo-  
logian will be amazed at the fulness of  
the polyglot footnotes and the appendices  
running literally from A to Z.

In addition to the matter that will be  
found in any life of Christ, Prat's is re-  
plete with details that can be found al-  
most nowhere else, details that stem, it  
would seem, as much from prayer as from  
intensive study. Every chapter, if not  
every page, furnishes material for medi-  
tation, and on almost every page the  
reader finds something he never discov-  
ered before.

Patristic interpretations of the words  
and actions of Our Lord abound through-  
out the book, yet one can read it as easily  
as any serious novel. Nor does the author  
hesitate to give his own interpretations.

Fr. Prat gives freshness to a text so  
shop-worn as Luke II:29 — traditionally  
rendered: "How is it that you sought me?  
Did you not know that I must give my-  
self fully to the things of my Father?" —  
by preferring another equally ancient ren-  
dition: "Did you not know that I must be  
in my Father's house?" and adding:  
"From the moment of His unannounced  
departure from them, the only place He  
could have been was in the Temple, the  
house of His Father. They could have  
found Him there without the trouble of  
looking elsewhere. So understood, His an-  
swer is, at first glance, less sublime; but  
how much more natural on the lips of a  
Child, who utters it with a caress and a  
smile" (Vol. I, p. 123).

Again, in interpreting the text of Luke  
X:18, "I beheld Satan fall from heaven  
like a flash of lightning," Père Prat gives  
another of his almost endless series of  
penetrating analyses. To him, these words  
of Christ, far from being the reproach to  
the disciples most Christographers find in  
them, "are, on the contrary, the expres-  
sion of an intense joy" on the part of the  
Son of God (Vol. II, p. 15).

Nor is this the only emotion he detects  
in Christ. Sorrow, fear, satisfaction, pleas-  
ure and all the rest he finds in the gospel  
text. And it is this, perhaps, that gives  
the warmth to his work. While he never

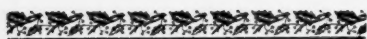
## BOOKS

loses sight of Our Lord's divinity, and of  
His divine mission among men, he seems  
ever conscious of the fact that the Son  
of God was likewise the Son of Man, like  
unto us in everything save sin.

A sample of this consciousness is given  
in Prat's sub-chapter on the external ap-  
pearance of Jesus. Recognizing the fact  
that there is extant no authentic image  
of Christ, and that there is no hope of  
finding any in the frescoes of the cata-  
combs, Père Prat paints for us an image  
of his own, based on his gospel reading.  
One almost hears him as he quotes Augus-  
tine saying: "What proves the beauty of  
Jesus is the fact that no one was ever  
more beloved than He." And one can  
sense his personal attachment to the Sub-  
ject of his study as he goes on to write:  
"Art will always be powerless to depict  
the expression of a face through which  
shines forth the soul of Divinity. Many  
have tried, but with small success. Even  
*le Beau Dieu* of Amiens, with its happy  
blending of 'thoughtful serenity, nobility  
and gentleness,' does not fully realize the  
desired ideal" (Vol. I, p. 143).

Père Prat felt he himself never fully  
realized his ideal as he drew his portrait  
of Jesus, and he concludes his book with  
a confession of defeat. But the reader, be  
he contemplative or scholar, cannot help  
but agree with Lagrange, that Prat's liter-  
ary portrait is better than any that has yet  
been painted.

A salvo of thanks ought to be rendered  
to Father John J. Heenan, S.J., of George-  
town University, who undertook this  
translation. It reads as smoothly as any  
original work, nor can one detect in it any



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By Joseph Duhr, S.J.

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The subject of this biography was canonized a Saint on Pentecost Sunday of this year. After her marriage to Louis XII had been annulled on the grounds of being forced into it, Joan became Duchess of Berry and devoted her life to religion. In time she founded the cloistered Order of the Annonciade, becoming one of the professed nuns herself.

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Translated from the French by Mary Paula Williamson and Mary Garrity

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foreign accent. The typography of the Bruce edition is superb, and the publishers must be commended for retaining all the features of the French original, including so fine a point as a Philological Index, with an added occasional parenthesis giving in American terms the value of a coin or a reference work not mentioned in the French.

Within three years, Bruce has given to the American public two of the best lives of Christ in existence, the work of Ricciotti in 1947, and now the work of Prat. One can only express the hope that in this second instance they will advertise the publication more widely than they did the first, lest it die unknown to the general reading public.

JOHN W. MAGAN, S.J.

## Nazi—and Soviet—infernos

### THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HELL

By Eugen Kogon. Farrar, Strauss. 307p. \$3.75.

Having lived through the horrors of four concentration camps—Auschwitz, Oranienberg, Sachsenhausen and Ohrdruf—I thought that Eugen Kogon's book could tell me nothing new. Yet *The Theory and Practice of Hell*, a book staggering in its unemotional objectivity, contains new details that had slipped even my observation, and explanations of situations I didn't understand at the time.

I hadn't known, for example, the fate of the inmates of Ohrdruf in the days after my escape. From Kogon's careful history, I discover: "Through SS Major Ding-Schuler we learned that on April 2 police chief SS Colonel Schmidt had left it up to the 'discretion' of SS Captain Olderbuhuis, Commandant of the Ohrdruf camp, to liquidate his convicts and political prisoners regarded as especially dangerous." April 2, 1945, was the blessed day of my escape. "The remaining Ohrdruf prisoners were to be evacuated," continues Kogon. "This death march of 12,000 Ohrdruf inmates to Buchenwald actually took place, thousands being shot down en route. . . . The victims of Ohrdruf itself ran to more than 1,500."

Margarethe Buber-Newman's book, *Under Two Dictators* (published last year in London), left an unresolved question in the minds of many readers. What were the mysterious forces operating in the selection of those chosen to head the work-details of inmates—the *Lagerälteste* and the *Campos*—and boss the barracks? Kogon makes clear that there was an alliance between the Communists and the common criminals in the concentration camps. The same situation is being repeated today, as Boris Shub indicates in his current book on the Soviets' vulnerability to propaganda, *The Choice*. In the concentration camps in East Germany, maintained by the Soviets and their German stooges, it is the Nazis who boss

the present-day, democratic victims of freedom. Ohrdruf, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Oranienberg are still operating, as torture chambers of political prisoners, this time under Soviet direction. Kogon's book thus brings you right up to date.

It is amazing how impersonal an account of the whole concentration-camp system Eugen Kogon has written. Himself a prisoner for seven years, he is now the editor of the celebrated *Frankfurter Hefte*, a monthly review of Christian Democratic orientation. His figures (from my personal knowledge of Ohrdruf and Auschwitz) are correct. His reporting may conceivably shock sensitive, sheltered souls, for the decline of decency and the deterioration of morals in concentration camps were an all-too-real version of the horrors of Dante's *Inferno*.

Such sensitive souls, however, need to be stabbed awake with a realization of the organized evil at work in the world. *The Theory and Practice of Hell* ends with a pointed question: Why does the world tolerate this criminality, this mass suffering?

With the millions of others who have languished in concentration camps, I ask the question today: how could humanity tolerate this? Before 1945 the world did not know what it has since learned of these towns of torture. Can it be that we refuse to recognize that those who tolerate the sufferings of innocent lovers of freedom bear part of the responsibility for those sufferings, that sitting down to political games with tyrants whose rule is founded on fear and consolidated by concentration camps is a betrayal of decency? I prefer to believe, rather, that the people of the democracies do not yet fully know. Eugen Kogon's masterful book will help inform them.

BELA FABIAN

## Delight in troubled times

### THE THIRTEEN CLOCKS

By James Thurber. Simon & Schuster. 124p. \$2.50.

Once upon a time in gloomy Coffin Castle there dwelt a villainous Duke and his lovely niece. His hands "were as cold as his smile and almost as cold as his heart"; she was "warm in every wind and weather." All the thirteen clocks in the castle were stopped at ten to five, because the Duke had killed Time and seen it bleed away its Hours and Minutes, so that it was "always Then" in the castle, "never Now." Suitor after suitor who had come to win the hand of the Princess Saralinda had failed in the monstrous tests imposed by the cruel Duke and ended up ingloriously by being slit from "guggle to zatch" and fed to the castle geese.

But the Prince comes, masquerading as a minstrel. His task is to find a thousand jewels in nine and ninety hours and bring

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them to the Duke. Off goes the Prince with the Golux (and who he is you will have to read to find out) to the house of Hagga, who could weep precious stones. But Hagga had lost the gift; all she could do now was laugh till she cried, and those tears turned into jewels only for eighteen hours. The Prince and the Golux convulse her into laughter with their limericks, ransom the Princess from the Duke with the ephemeral gems, bring the dead clocks to life, and Prince and Princess ride on white horses to the seashore to take ship to their kingdom—"and, looking far to sea, the Princess Saralinda thought she saw, as people often think they see, on clear and windless days, the distant shining shores of Ever After."

This is a wonderfully rich fairy story in the tradition of the classics in the field. It gleams with wit and fancy; it is hilarious in its bravura of rhyme and onomatopoeia; it is gaily unblushing in its coinage of words; it is properly creepy in its fell spies and suggested dank dungeons.

And, in addition, there are overtones that suggest the goal and the search that are the pattern and the desire of the human soul just because it is a soul. Am I suggesting too much in seeing in Hagga's lasting jewels from her tears of weeping, as contrasted with the ephemeral jewels from her tears of laughter, a faint little echo of "blessed are they that mourn"? Anyway, this is a superb play of happy fancy, and it is my considered decision that anyone who finds he just doesn't like this sort of stuff is a confirmed sourpuss.

HAROLD C. GARDINER

#### THIS LITTLE WHILE

By John W. Lynch. Macmillan. 93p. \$3.

Father Lynch, whose biography of Mary in verse, *A Woman Wrapped in Silence*, has gone into thirteen printings, has waited nine years before publishing his second book. It was a necessary interval, since a book like *This Little While* must be prayed over and dreamed upon and allowed to "gather to a greatness."

Inevitably this new verse narrative of scenes from the life of Our Lord will be compared with the former book. It is about one-third the length of the earlier work, and does not aim at a complete life of Jesus. This was a wise decision, but the rather small space allotted to the Public Life may impress the reader as marring the wholeness of the work, even in the light of the poet's intent. Also, certain syntactical ellipses, by way of poetic license, disturb the flow of flexible common speech, measured in easy iambic pentameters. Apart from these flaws the book deserves unqualified praise as a reverent and largely successful attempt to describe the Passion of Our Lord in the concrete image and tense language of verse. For this is a book about the Passion; the incidents from the Childhood and Public Life are seen as prelude.

The long, detailed account of the Third Passover attempts to fathom the thoughts of the Redeemer. This moving portrait of the Son of Man looking down on the redeemed world is remarkably effective. The passage describing the request of the dying thief shows the quality of the colors laid on the stone iconography of the Gospels, as well as exemplifying one of Father Lynch's defects.

The blood swelled sickly in His mouth, and breath

Was ended, and His heart was all He heard.

Somewhere, as a bird might sing to Him,

Above Him, level to His hair, so near He need not search, nor move, nor seek for space

Of quiet in the sounding of His blood, He hears a voice that begs last royal gift

Of brief remembering. He cannot see, And wrenching now athwart the rigid wood,

His head uplifted, pulling at the nails, He cannot reach least moment of relief That He may bring to eyes that seek His Own.

There are two faces in the sun, so fixed Against the posts they must stare outward only,

Separate, and must declare their loves In quick companionship of lonely words.

In her fifteen illustrations, Marguerite S. Cockett has avoided clear outlines and exactly defined figures, so that the effect is often similar to that obtained by looking through binoculars blurred with rain. The technique is remarkably effective in the pictures of Christ before Pilate and the daringly symbolic Crucifixion: Christ crucified on the tree of good and evil.

FRANCIS SWEENEY, S.J.

#### ALL HONORABLE MEN

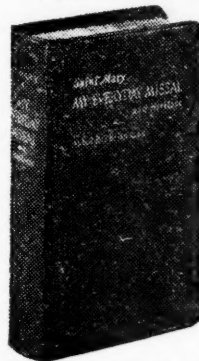
By James Stewart Martin. Little, Brown. 300p. \$3.50.

This book, by the former Chief of the Decartelization Branch of Military Government in Germany, is a dated work—a belated attempt to justify one of the most unfortunate and ill-advised phases of the Allied postwar policy. "On both sides of the Atlantic" certain men and groups of men successfully "thwarted plans to dismantle the Nazi cartel system"—that statement jumps to the reader's eye in the introductory blurb. The book is, however, at the same time an interesting confession: such were the notions and purposes of the men who were, if not directing, then at least influencing, our policy in Germany.

They were—whether they know it or not—also "all honorable men." If they failed to make their peace with reason and sober judgment when the time had come for reason and sober judgment, they couldn't help it because they remained the victims of war propaganda and of a fantastically wrong interpretation of nazism, cartels and "business." To them the cartels were the font of all evils;

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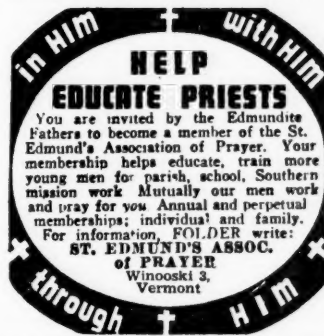
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sometimes they did not even know what a cartel was. Some of them stated in print that big combines are identical with cartels. There may be—perhaps unbeknown to individuals in the group—elements of Marxian interpretation of the events of the last decade, an economism which lingers on in the face of continued aggression on the part of a non-capitalist political system.

Parts of the book are wrapped in a cloak-and-dagger atmosphere—"Mr. Martin's story is a detective story on an appalling scale." It is, The author is inspired by a mission: to trace the devil of "cartelism" and of big business down to its deepest lair. The return to reason and sober realization of the facts of the situation must have appeared to him as sabotage. And since, by and by, sober-minded people began to prevail in the Administration, among generals, Congressmen, businessmen and economists, it was the author's turn to feel sabotaged and frustrated. People began to think in terms of "economy, recovery and the 'tax-payer's money.'" Even Congressmen on their visits to Germany "had gone home with the impression that the decartelization program was a combination of the Morgenthau plan of de-industrializing Germany and a scheme to break up the remaining industries into thousands of unrelated plants."

Mr. Martin was naturally shocked when an economist of the rank of Dr. Gustav Stolper sharply criticized the postwar policy in Germany, or when the Hoover Report said some very unfriendly things about the same phase of Allied policy. In July, 1947, Mr. Martin resigned. It was the right thing to do.

From an historical point of view, the book has the undeniable merit of giving the American public an inside story of the men and motives that were framing our policy in the immediate postwar period in Germany. Apart from many obvious errors in details, the book, used with discrimination, is a contribution to the understanding of a confused and emotionally upset era.

G. A. BRIEFS

## A CRITIQUE OF LOGICAL POSITIVISM

By C. E. M. Joad. University of Chicago.  
154p. \$2.75.

In 1948 England's *New Statesman* printed an article on contemporary Oxford wherein the author stated that Professor A. J. Ayer's book, *Language, Truth and Logic*, had acquired since the war the status of a philosophic Bible at Oxford. Professor Joad, the author of a score of books on philosophy, ventured to attack in the pages of the *Statesman* the doctrine of logical positivism set forth in Ayer's book. There resulted the liveliest academic controversy in England's recent years. This book is Joad's version of the battle.

Logical positivism, as used by Ayer and Joad, is a very restricted idea. It means only that philosophical theory of knowledge which holds that our mental conceptions are unverifiable in the physical order. It is only this philosophical idealism of Ayer which Joad seeks to demolish, and he has done so conclusively. Joad condemns Ayer's theory of knowledge as basically materialistic by showing the implications of Ayer's own words and the disastrous results to all true science, metaphysics and religion if Ayer's theory were followed. Though Joad classifies himself as a realist, his own theory of knowledge, which he suggests by implication, seems more Kantian than Thomistic.

This volume is a compact, trenchantly written critique of epistemological positivism which merits the attention of those working professionally in the field of philosophy.

ROBERT F. DRINAN

## ONE FOOT IN AMERICA

By Yuri Suhl. Macmillan. 252p. \$2.75

As the title implies, this is the story of embryo Americans, a Jewish family recently arrived from Europe. Actually a biography—and a suspect autobiography—it is told in the first person by adolescent Sol Kenner. The locale is New York; time, the 'twenties.

Sol gives his story a now gay, a now plaintive air, which will capture the sympathy and understanding of the reader. His struggle finally to arrive in the new country, his great ambition in a combined set-up of work and study, his handling of his widower-father's and his own love affairs, his meeting with racial prejudice, his ability to make friends—all these factors are combined into a composite of touching realism.

Democracy and the American way, taken pretty much for granted by us natives, is really appreciated by these neophytes who are constantly comparing their present with their former lives and with those of their relatives still in the old country. The story is a good lesson in Americanism. It could be written only by one who has had the experience of achieving democracy the hard way—by working for it.

The story appears to be an ideal one for adolescents, since it is told by a youth whose experiences will parallel their own in many instances. However, there is one angle that definitely restricts it to adult audiences. It is a too-detailed account of Sol's two older men friends trying to make "a man" of him by taking him to visit a prostitute. The fact that he doesn't carry out their design still fails to justify the inclusion of this part in an otherwise thoroughly decent book.

The constant use of foreign terms is a bit disturbing to one not conversant with Yiddish. The continuity of thought, however, is not seriously affected thereby.

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The character-study is excellent. The impressive part of the narrative is not so much physical as spiritual. It is easy to visualize mentally Sol's learned, kindly, religious father; his understanding stepmother—and Sol himself. Sol's love affairs are very well executed. The reader will chuckle at Sol blushing and stammering and bending over backwards to impress his two girl friends, each in turn, and to get in right with their families. Sol's ambition and his zeal for his butcher-boy jobs and for his studies are both good indices to his character.

Humor, patriotism and faith come mingle to make this life-story readable and engrossing.

CATHERINE D. GAUSE

#### JEANNE OF FRANCE: PRINCESS AND SAINT

By the Duc de Lévis Mirepoix. Translated by Charlotte T. Muret. Longmans, Green. 203p. \$3.50.

This first biography in the English language of the recently canonized Jeanne of France is written by a distinguished French historian who based his book on hitherto unpublished material. The author draws a number of pertinent comparisons and contrasts between Jeanne of France, daughter of Louis XI, and Jeanne d'Arc, humble shepherdess, both of whom were born in the same century, one in humble surroundings, the other in a palace. Unlike Jeanne d'Arc, who was destined to die in a blaze of glory, Jeanne of France died in retirement and obscurity at the age of forty.

A pawn in the hands of Louis XI, Jeanne of France, who was deformed from birth, was married at twelve to the Duke of Orleans. In this account of Jeanne's trials as unwanted child, unwanted and unloved wife and uncrowned, cast-off queen, the future saint's deeply spiritual character and intellectual powers are amply revealed. Her dignity, courage and humility throughout her life, and especially during the series of court actions which terminated in the annulment of her marriage, make us compare her with Jeanne d'Arc. To bring out the innate qualities of Jeanne's nature, the author has made a detailed study of her father, Louis XI, whose strangely contradictory character partly explains his unnatural unkindness to his physically unattractive daughter. At the same time, an attempt is made to probe Louis XII's motives in having his marriage to Jeanne declared null, as well as his mingled feelings toward the unhappy Jeanne.

It was, however, as foundress of the Annonciade that Jeanne of France realized her heaven-sent mission. For those interested in Church history and the fascinating period in French history between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, here is a book to capture the imagination.

PIERRE COURTINES

#### REGINALD POLE, CARDINAL OF ENGLAND

By Dr. Wilhelm Schenk. Longmans. 168p. \$3.

Beside such shining contemporaries as More and Fisher, Pole has always remained a rather nebulous figure in English history. The reason, according to Dr. Schenk, is that only eight years of his adult life were spent in England. Twenty-nine were spent on the Continent. This biography, therefore, is doubly welcome, because it reinstates the Cardinal in his true historical perspective and because, through diligent research into original sources, it presents a living and memorable picture of the man himself. In the light of Dr. Schenk's book, the Victorian myths about Pole, retailed by historians like Froude and founded on the prejudices of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, can no longer survive.

The major criticism is that, in the last chapter, entitled "Failure and Fulfilment," Dr. Schenk's judgments on the Counter-Reformation vis-à-vis humanism, and on the Church's attitude toward more recent intellectual movements, reflect a strange misunderstanding of the nature of the Church. This misunderstanding is the more surprising in view of his penetrating insight throughout the book into Cardinal Pole's mind, depicting it as one in which complete harmony reigned between faith and reason.

Historically the determining factor in Pole's life was his close relationship to Henry VIII. He was near enough in succession to the throne to be entangled in the conflicts of his age. In his childhood and early youth he was an intimate friend of the King, and he took part in the mission which Henry sent to Paris in 1530. The object of that mission, in which Pole found himself reluctantly associated, was to obtain a decision from the theologians of the University of Paris that the Pope had no authority to grant a dispensation for the marriage of a widow with her deceased husband's brother. There is, says Dr. Schenk, no evidence that Pole took an active share in the bribery involved in that task, but the King's pleasure is shown in a letter to Pole ascribing "to your dexterity and faithfulness the furtherance of our cause."

In justice to Pole it must be remembered that at that time the question was still in debate. Later, particularly when the execution of More and Fisher had opened his eyes, there was no more uncompromising and outspoken opponent of the King than Pole. He did not actually suffer martyrdom but he was constantly pursued by assassins hired by Henry, and he suffered a veritable martyrdom of the heart by seeing his own family reduced to ruin and his mother and eldest brother brought to the scaffold.

By nature Pole was a contemplative, and like other intellectuals with a con-

## For All

## MANY-COLORED FLEECE

Edited by Sister Mariella Gable, O.S.B.

A new collection of short stories on Catholic life by Catholics and non-Catholics—Graham Greene, John Steinbeck, Sean O'Faolain, Frank O'Connor and a dozen other top-flight writers. There are two particularly interesting developments to notice in this collection: Catholic short story writers are growing up, and non-Catholic writers are showing much more understanding of Catholic life than used to be the case. As in *Our Father's House*, Sister Mariella writes a note to introduce each story and author and a general introduction to the whole book. Extracts from this superb introduction appear on the front page of the Christmas issue of the *Trumpet*. (If you don't get the *Trumpet*, it's no fault of ours: you have only to ask Agatha MacGill and she will send it to you, free and postpaid, until you change your address and forget to tell her.) As we were saying, this is Sister Mariella's very best collection so far, and will make nearly anyone supremely happy for Christmas. **\$3.50**

## For Some BEYOND HUMANISM

by John Julian Ryan

This, alas, has no such universal appeal, but to make up, anyone who is interested in Catholic education will want it very badly. (That ought to mean all Catholics, of course; why it doesn't is more than we can go into here.) But if you are a live Catholic you have probably wondered why so many students leave Catholic colleges grimly determined to stick to their Faith in spite of its disadvantages, instead of full of enthusiasm for the chance it gives them to live a fuller and more glorious life than their non-Catholic friends. There are, goodness knows, plenty of Catholic educators who will agree that that is only too true: not so many who have clear-cut ideas about what's wrong and what to do about it. Well, John Ryan, writing out of many years' experience as teacher, lecturer, and especially as manager of the Catholic University workshop on education for the last five years, is full of constructive ideas—let's encourage him. **\$3.00**

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templative vocation he shunned the responsibilities of office. He was happiest when surrounded by his friends and living an almost monastic life of prayer and study in Padua and elsewhere. But circumstances prevented his leading the contemplative life. Inexorably he was forced into the maelstrom of the sixteenth century and he was destined to be one of the chief figures in preparing the Counter-Reformation. His part in the Council of Trent alone places him among the great figures of Church history.

But one closes this book with a sense of only partly understanding the paradox of Pole's character. For instance, how, we ask ourselves, can so kind and good a man as he, during the last four years of his life as Archbishop of Canterbury, the years of Mary's reign, have tolerated, even if he did not always approve, the recurrent burnings of four hundred men and women, chiefly among the least informed and humblest circles? Pole cannot escape some responsibility for that blot on Mary's reign. It is not a satisfying explanation to say, as Dr. Schenk does, that he was subservient to the Queen's will, for we know how Mary relied on his guidance as a spiritual director, as Vittoria Colonna had relied on it in former years. That is one of the questions the book raises on the biographical side.

From the historical standpoint it is a running commentary on the Reformation.

It reveals what Pole himself said to the Council of Trent, that the deplorable corruption and incredible wickedness of the men entrusted with the guardianship of the Church in those days were largely responsible for the ensuing tragedy.

With the exception of the last chapter, the book is objectively written and is a valuable contribution to the history of the sixteenth century.

ROBERT WILBERFORCE

#### MIRACLE AT CARVILLE

By Betty Martin. Edited by Evelyn Wells. Doubleday. 302p. \$3.

Picture a pretty girl, nineteen, fastidious enough to be called "Little Priss" by her family. Put her in the midst of a traditional French family Christmas celebration, this time made more exciting by the presence of her fiancé, and you have the stage-setting for this real-life drama.

The time was the late 'twenties of the present century; the place, New Orleans, with all of the overtones that this locale implies. Then, in the midst of festivities, the girl's uncle, a physician, came dejectedly to the house to tell her father that she had leprosy and that she must depart quickly and surreptitiously for the leprosarium at Carville, Louisiana. Several weeks before Christmas she had noticed pink spots on her thighs. Her uncle had

dismissed them as of no moment, but now a specialist had made and confirmed the diagnosis of Hansen's disease (leprosy). To make the story even more poignant, it was her fiancé, Robert, a medical student, who was elected to break the news to her.

The story of "Betty's" incarceration, her hopes, her fears, her romance and eventual marriage to another patient (Robert did not persevere), is told with a charming and childlike simplicity. The miracle lies not in her eventual recovery under treatment with the new drugs Promin and Diasone, but rather in the deep and beautiful faith which sustained her at all times, even in her darkest, most depressing hours.

Most of the volume is concerned with daily happenings in Carville and a description of the complicated interpersonal relationships which one would expect in such surroundings. Actually the story is a recapitulation of man's cruelty to man, for it is only because of prejudice and misunderstanding that these patients had to be isolated at all. Hansen's disease is the least communicable of all communicable diseases, and the designation "leper" is an example of the tyranny of certain terms. Applied to the individual, these terms make the sufferer, *ipso facto*, a pariah.

The struggle of the Carville patients to educate the public, through the medium of their hospital paper, to the fact that "leper" is an outmoded term made terrible by a mistranslation of the Old Testament, is a story in itself. Patients with Hansen's disease could be treated far more efficaciously in general hospitals with little or no danger were it not for the public reaction to what the term implies.

The story is told simply, dramatically, and with fine insight. It is recommended reading, for it is a brave chronicle of the plight of sensitive, misunderstood and badly treated human beings.

F. J. BRACELAND, M.D.

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## THE WORD

"Straighten out the way of the Lord"  
(John 1:23, III Sunday of Advent).

Downtown at one of the busiest intersections stands a huge, muscular police officer known and hailed by thousands each day as "Barney." I don't know what sort of picture Barney makes at home with his family and friends, but downtown in the middle of that street he is king. The big dark brows and immobile face somehow make docile slaves of the most venture-some motorists.

Barney's specialty of course is straightening out traffic jams. He does more straightening out in one day than most of



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us do in our whole lives. Maybe it is the intense vigor of the man that does it. He darts back and forth in his little center of bare pavement, every inch alert and energetic, gesturing, shouting instructions and glaring defiance at all and sundry.

When I read the gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent, I begin to see that what most of us need is to "Barney" ourselves. The gospel talks about straightening out the way of the Lord—preparing ourselves by correction and penance for His coming. Well, we have just about a week left. And most of us have a lot of straightening out to do. We will never do it unless we take ourselves in hand the way Barney takes everybody else in hand.

The crooked and twisted things we need to straighten out in these last few days before the Infant King's arrival are really inside of us. We let our tendencies and motive forces get pulled off-center by our selfishness and pride. After repeatedly going crooked they can get grooved that way. The twisted and grooved tendency to be uncharitable about an unpleasant fellow employee is hard to straighten out. A lazy habit of inattentiveness at Mass is hard to break. That's why we need a big, strong, vigorous force to make a good job of the straightening-out process. And that's why I nominate Barney as a model.

Everyone of us has a strong, reliable force like Barney inside himself. We have a will of our own, fortified both deep and high with the grace of God. All we have to do is make up our minds firmly that we really want to be straightened out, and then send in our own personal Barney to handle the situation. Remembering Barney's vigor in the face of opposition, his alertness, firmness and determination, we might do a good job of policing our own souls.

There is one mistake we could make that would never happen to Barney. Let's not try to change all our faults in one week. Barney keeps untying traffic knots all the year round. Let's just pick out one traffic jam, one big, crooked tendency, and straighten it out well.

DANIEL FOGARTY, S.J.

## THEATRE

**THE RELAPSE.** Theatre Guild productions are usually handsomely mounted, and the rowdy comedy now housed at the Morosco is no exception to the Guild's long-established rule. *The Relapse* is a Restoration comedy by Sir John Vanbrugh, provided with an appropriately gaudy background by Robert O'Hearn, who has dressed the actors in luxurious satins, ribbons and amazing wigs. Apparently presented in a tongue-in-cheek mood, the production is flamboyant rather

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# America's December Book-Log

10

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books

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McGraw-Hill. \$3.50 By Fulton Sheen
2. THE MARY BOOK  
SHEED & WARD. \$4 Assembled by Frank J. Sheed
3. THE WAY OF DIVINE LOVE  
NEWMAN. \$4.25 By Sister Josepha Menendez
4. ONE MOMENT PLEASE  
DOUBLEDAY. \$2 By James M. Keller
5. MARIA GORETTI  
CATHOLIC BOOK PUB. CO. \$1.25 By C. E. Maguire
6. THE QUIET LIGHT  
LIPPINCOTT. \$3 By Louis De Wohl
7. THE CARDINAL  
SIMON & SCHUSTER. \$3.50 By Henry Morton Robinson
8. WHERE I FOUND CHRIST  
DOUBLEDAY. \$2.50 Edited by John A. O'Brien
9. REPROACHFULLY YOURS  
SHEED & WARD. \$2.25 By Lucile Hasley
10. THIS LITTLE WHILE  
MACMILLAN. \$3 By John W. Lynch

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Chicago	506 S. Wabash Ave.
Cincinnati	The Thomas More Association
Cincinnati	210 West Madison Street
Cincinnati	Benziger Bros., Inc.
Cincinnati	429 Main Street
Cincinnati	Frederick Pustet Company, Inc.
Cincinnati	436 Main Street
Cleveland	Catholic Book Store
Cleveland	906 Superior Avenue
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6. The Spiritual Life  
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8. The Spiritual Exercises  
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Marmion  
Herder
10. The Soul of the Apostolate  
Chautard  
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Gilmore Wood  
Warne. \$2

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Ruth Sawyer  
Harper. \$2.50

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R. G. Emery  
Macrae-Smith. \$2.50

OLDER GIRLS:  
Sun in the Morning  
Elizabeth Cadell  
Morrow. \$2.50

than beautiful, and that, perhaps, is also in conformity with the spirit of the period.

Cyril Ritchard directed the action for laughs, and there are moments, especially in the scenes in Sir Tunbelly's castle, when one can guffaw without qualms of conscience. There are occasions when Sir Tunbelly's snaggle tooth and Falstaff paunch and the antics of his goofy retinue make such gorgeous low comedy as is rarely seen on any stage. Those scenes, however, are islands of comparatively clean rambunctious fun in a deluge of polished lewdness.

Not too brightly polished at that, for Vanbrugh indulges himself in more license than Congreve when he was most wanton—say, in *Love for Love*. *The Relapse* is a story of triumphant and arrogant vice that is almost unbelievable. The play was written in an age of moral let-down, of course, but it is doubtful if profligacy has ever been as shameless or virtue as rare as Vanbrugh would have us believe they were not as immoral in the seventeenth century as they are today. An alert conscience is likely to be less tolerant. *The Relapse* is a classic which The Guild, with many successful revivals to its credit, could have afforded to ignore.

Since the play has survived, after a fashion, for two hundred years, and is included among minor classics, its lubricity will hardly be noticed by those who are slow to recognize vice in a peruke and velvet jacket, as if seduction and infidelity were not as immoral in the seventeenth century as they are today. An alert conscience is likely to be less tolerant. *The Relapse* is a classic which The Guild, with many successful revivals to its credit, could have afforded to ignore.

Mr. Ritchard is starred in the leading role, that of a fashionable fop, along with Madge Elliott, a dissolute widow. The supporting company includes John Emery and Ruth Matteson, backed by capable performers in lesser roles. All roles are handled with competence and some with skill. Mr. Ritchard makes a gallant effort to lift the comedy to the level of decency by making lechery and vanity ludicrous, and in doing so gives a truly bravura performance. The Vanbrugh text, however, is too much for him.

**THE GOLDEN STATE**, written and produced respectively by Samuel and Bella Spewack, is an agreeable comedy about people who live on the fringe of absurdity in California. Mr. Spewack also directed the production, which is appearing at the Fulton. Credit for sets and lights goes to Lester Polakov, and for the costumes to Grace Houston.

The characters, even the ex-convict who attempts to parlay a back yard into a million-dollar corporation, are amiable people, and Mr. Spewack has etched them with skill and sympathy. Josephine Hull, starred in the leading role, and Ernest Truex, as a maverick prospector, deliver performances that are deliciously humorous, with a deft touch of pathos. While *The Golden State* falls far short of its potentialities, it is an all-round, tidy job.

THEOPHILUS LEWIS

## FILMS

**LAST HOLIDAY** is an engaging example of the type of unpretentious, warmly human film the British do so well. For plot it turns to the rather threadbare formula of the man who suddenly is told that he has but a few weeks to live. There is nothing threadbare, though, in either performance or treatment. Alec Guinness makes the Milquetoastish salesman-hero, who is transformed by his efforts to enjoy his last remaining days, into a wonderfully appealing figure. And the various people he encounters on his last holiday at a resort hotel are much more interesting and sharply drawn than the usual Grand Hotel stereotypes. J. B. Priestley, who wrote the screen play, has some valid things to say about the effect of recklessly selfless behavior upon people who are not aware of the specialized motive behind it. He also has a way of spicing his benign observations with irony and comic overtones which should definitely recommend the film for family audiences. (*Stratford*)

**PRELUDE TO FAME** is an interesting but much more uneven British import. The story concerns a small Italian peasant lad who has a genius for musical interpretation. A cultivated Englishman (Guy Rolfe), who discovers this extraordinary talent, fosters it simply for the boy's own enjoyment. However, when a particularly unpleasant millionairess (Kathleen Byron) gets her hands on the boy she ruthlessly exploits him as a *Wunderkind* symphony conductor to a point where the child attempts suicide in despair. That this distasteful story is not really unbearable is due to the fact that it never seems very real. The machinations of the female "heavy" resemble nothing so much as those of the witch in *Snow White* and the high-type Englishman and his "perfect wife" (Kathleen Ryan) who come to the boy's rescue are a little too good to be true. By contrast, young Jeremy Spenser plays the small genius with great conviction and a remarkable comprehension of his chores on the conductor's podium. His performance, plus the liberal and intelligent use of symphonic music, makes the picture worth while for adults. (*Universal-International*)

**MR. MUSIC** is a fairly shiny custom-made vehicle for Bing Crosby. For purposes of plot "the groaner" pretends to be a composer of popular songs who is too busy to work. Various involved in a friendly conspiracy to get him back into harness are a prim young secretary (Nancy Olson), a dizzy blonde former sweetheart (Ruth Hussey), a long-suffer-

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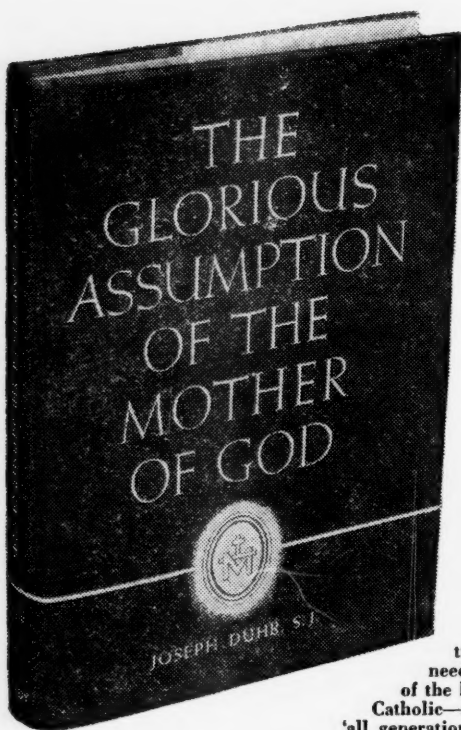
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ing producer (Charles Coburn) and a valet coyly referred to as "Cupcake" (Tom Ewell). *Adults* will hardly be surprised at the way the story works out, but they should find the songs and comedy intermittently pleasant and the star's talent for rising above undistinguished material undiminished. (Paramount)

DIAL 1119 compresses a great deal of plot and violence into a minimum of running time. A baby-faced and pistol-packing homicidal maniac (Marshall Thompson), newly escaped from the local asylum, barricades himself in a bar and, using the five occupants as hostages, demands an interview with the police psychiatrist who saved him from the electric chair a few years before. While his five hapless but poorly characterized victims are coming apart at the seams in approved fashion, the police are throwing a cordon around the building and the chief of police (Richard Rober) and the psychiatrist (Sam Levene) are holding a heated debate over the wisdom of letting the killer escape the death penalty on a plea of insanity. Since the doctor is handicapped by some singularly fatuous lines and, given a chance to talk with the trigger-happy youth, is promptly killed for his pains, the picture intentionally or not stacks the cards in favor of expediency. For a thriller that did not have much point in the first place, this provides the final blow. *Adult* (MGM)

MOIRA WALSH

## PARADE

IGNORING THE HEAPED-UP YEARS, old folks throughout the week radiated the vim and vigor of youth. . . . Old gums blossomed. . . . In Pakistan, a 105-year-old native teethed for the third time. . . . Old eyes throbbed with young power. . . . In Osage, Ia., a man of ninety threw away his eyeglasses, revealed he no longer needed them. . . . Centenarians held to the spirit of younger years. . . . In Beloit, Wis., a citizen on his 101st birthday told reporters: "I feel fine—in fact, I feel as though I were ninety again." . . . Defying the march of time were women as well as men. . . . In Revere, Mass., a woman celebrated her 102nd anniversary by piloting an airplane for the first time. After getting back to earth, she exclaimed: "I wish I'd had the courage to loop the loop." . . . From the week's beginning to its end, newspapermen were running hither and yon to interview oldsters. . . . In Springfield, Mass., a ninety-year-old undertaker, who has buried 27,000 persons, declared: "In 1916, doctors gave

me only three months to live, and yet I survived all of them." . . . Out of the mist of the years stepped the past. . . . In Wellesley, Mass., a lady, aged 100, told reporters: "I remember the night in 1878 when I attended a lecture by Alexander Graham Bell in Boston. He made a call on the telephone and told the audience he had been talking to someone at the public library. I turned to my companion and said: 'He'll never make me believe that.'" . . . In New York, another little old lady, pushing 100, went over bygone days with reporters: She stated: "I was the first singer whose voice was recorded by Thomas Alva Edison for his then new-fangled gramophone. Later, Mr. Edison put one of those little things in my ear and I heard myself. I was probably the first person to have that experience, too."

Strangely enough, the oldest of the old things passing by in the flow of current history was not interviewed at all. . . . Had there been such an interview, it could have run as follows:

*Catholic Church* (answering reporter's question): Yes, I am very old. I was born in the time of the Roman Empire.

*Reporter*: I suppose you frequently heard predictions of your early death.

*Catholic Church*: Very frequently. The persecuting Roman Emperors, the various heresies and other instruments of destruction were always getting my grave ready.

In each century I passed through I heard voices predicting my early demise.

*Reporter*: Your advanced age does not seem to impair your vigor.

*Catholic Church*: I am strong and healthy. Although I am now going on two thousand, I feel as though I had never left my infancy.

*Reporter*: Do you look forward to many more centuries of life?

*Catholic Church*: Sir, I know for certain that I will be working in the world down to the Last Judgment. With my own ears I heard my Founder say to me: "Going therefore, teach ye all nations . . . and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world."

JOHN A. TOOMEY

REV. JOHN W. MAGAN, S.J., of Xavier High School, New York City, is active in retreat work.

FRANCIS J. BRACELAND, M.D., is head of the Psychiatry Section at the Mayo Clinic.

ROBERT WILBERFORCE, with the British Information Service, is a frequent contributor to Catholic periodicals.

DR. GOETZ BRIEFS is in the Economics Department at Georgetown University.

DR. BELA FABIAN, author and lecturer, is a former member of the Hungarian Parliament.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### For a Christian Christmas

EDITOR: The article by Auleen Eberhardt, "The Christ Child's place in Christmas" (AM. 11/8), is very good—but can't we go farther?

Most mature adults are aghast at the spectacle of Christmas shopping, which becomes more appalling each year. They likewise fail to get any thrill out of gifts which cost the donor too much time, trouble and cash.

We could change all this by sending to each friend and adult relative a greeting with the note "I am sending in your name a donation to \_\_\_\_\_" (naming the charitable institution or agency—and sending the donation).

Immediately, I hear the objection: "But that will hurt business."

If, however, instead of one fine blouse for me the manufacturer must make three plain ones for poorer people, or if, instead of publishing one de-luxe best seller for me he must produce three plain classics for orphans, will that hurt business? At any rate, I think it would help Christmas.

Syracuse, N. Y.

JANE JORDAN

EDITOR: More power to Auleen Eberhardt's splendid crusade to restore the Christ Child to His place in Christmas. By way of postscript to her article I would suggest that we celebrate *after* the Saviour has come, instead of following commercial custom by decorating our homes and giving gifts all during Advent.

It would also be more in keeping with the spirit of the Church to retain home decorations, etc., until January 13, the Octave of the Wise Men.

(SISTER) MARY LIDWINA

Marshfield, Wis.

### Sour notes?

EDITOR: No doubt Father Daniel Lord intended to do the cause of interracial justice a great service by writing his "Songs in the wind" (AM. 11/25). However, since everyone abreast of the times knows that tremendous progress has been made all along the interracial front in this country since the 'nineties, it seems not only unnecessary but even harmful to emphasize the obvious by calling to mind the disgraceful songs of the past. Would it not be far better to leave them buried in the Limbo of forgotten things! Or was it his purpose to make thousands of AMERICA's readers, both white and colored, wince? If so, he succeeded not only in making me wince, but also mad.

JOHN P. MARKOE, S.J.

Omaha, Nebr.

### For Catholic service centers

EDITOR: Excuse me for taking up your valuable time but I consider the matter urgent.

The present international crisis has vastly increased the size of our Armed Forces. Today thousands of young men are again leaving their homes and heading for Army, Navy or Air Force training centers, often far away. These men are subjected to rigorous training throughout the week and are in great numbers granted week-end passes to get out and "enjoy themselves."

Personally I find that Catholic servicemen are here in a disadvantageous position as compared to their fellow Americans.

Canteens, service clubs, dormitories, etc., are almost all under Protestant administration and control. Of course, I do not in any way wish to criticize the work of the YMCA, the Salvation Army and other groups, but as a Catholic I would by far prefer stopping over at Catholic service centers.

Several of these Evangelical groups, such as "The Christian Businessmen's Association," the "Youth for Christ," etc., serve free meals to servicemen but also come around with "Bible chats" and other types of religious guidance which, though admirable on the part of these unselfish and devoted laymen, are not acceptable to Catholics. We who have definite, well-defined articles of faith, ecclesiastical interpretation of the Scriptures, do not need these religious pep talks. On the other hand, as we must be polite to our hosts, we often refrain from challenging their theories or giving our own stand on the issues raised.

To this dilemma I see only one solution: the opening of Catholic service clubs, within the USO set-up.

May I therefore appeal to AMERICA and through you to all who can do anything about it—the NCWC, the KC and others—to press this issue?

In the Eastern States Catholics are, I believe, a majority in the Armed Forces. Boston, New York, Trenton, Philadelphia and Washington, all should have Catholic facilities for Catholic servicemen. If the Salvation Army, relatively a small religious group, can carry out such an extensive program, I feel sure it should not be said that the Catholic Church—the nation's largest religious group—has let its servicemen down.

CATHOLIC SOLDIER

Address Withheld